



US009423123B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Deng

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,423,123 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 23, 2016**

(54) **SAFETY PRESSURE SWITCH**

(71) Applicant: **David Deng**, Diamond Bar, CA (US)

(72) Inventor: **David Deng**, Diamond Bar, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 234 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/181,515**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 14, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0248568 A1 Sep. 4, 2014

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/771,795, filed on Mar. 2, 2013, provisional application No. 61/773,716, filed on Mar. 6, 2013, provisional application No. 61/773,713, filed on Mar. 6, 2013, provisional application No. 61/778,072, filed on Mar. 12, 2013, provisional application No. 61/806,344, filed on Mar. 28, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

F23N 1/00 (2006.01)
F23C 1/08 (2006.01)
F23N 5/10 (2006.01)
F23N 5/24 (2006.01)
F24C 1/04 (2006.01)
F24C 3/02 (2006.01)
F24C 3/08 (2006.01)
A47J 37/07 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC . **F23C 1/08** (2013.01); **A47J 37/07** (2013.01);
A47J 37/074 (2013.01); **A47J 37/0713**
(2013.01); **A47J 37/0727** (2013.01); **F23N**
1/002 (2013.01); **F23N 5/102** (2013.01); **F23N**
5/242 (2013.01); **F24C 1/04** (2013.01); **F24C**
3/02 (2013.01); **F24C 3/08** (2013.01); **F23D**
2900/00004 (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC F23N 1/002; F23N 1/00; F23C 1/08;
F16K 19/00

USPC 431/89, 112, 187, 74; 126/344, 39 R,
126/25 R; 73/23.2; 137/624.27

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

188,740 A 3/1877 Murphy
743,714 A 11/1903 Guese

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 2421550 2/2001
CN 2430629 Y 5/2001

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Consumer Guide to Vent-Free Gas Supplemental Heating Products,
est. 2007.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Gregory Huson

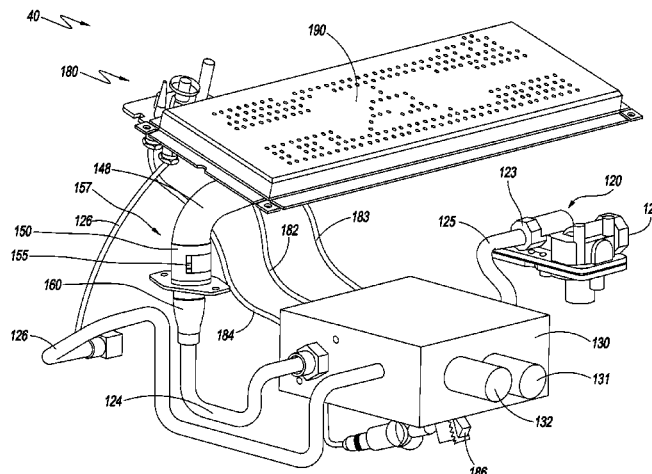
Assistant Examiner — Nikhil Mashruwala

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Knobbe Martens Olson &
Bear LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A safety pressure switch can be used with a gas appliance. The gas appliance can be a single fuel or a dual fuel appliance for use with one of a first fuel type or a second fuel type different than the first. The safety pressure switch can be fluidly connected to a fuel input and electrically coupled to a pilot assembly.

14 Claims, 38 Drawing Sheets



US 9,423,123 B2

Page 2

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,051,072 A	1/1913	Bradley	5,470,018 A	11/1995	Smith	
1,589,386 A	6/1926	Harper	5,513,798 A	5/1996	Tavor	
1,639,115 A	8/1927	Smith	5,520,206 A	5/1996	Deville	
1,697,865 A	1/1929	Hahn et al.	5,542,609 A	8/1996	Myers et al.	
1,729,819 A	10/1929	Campbell	5,567,141 A	10/1996	Joshi et al.	
1,755,639 A	4/1930	Fawcett	5,584,680 A	12/1996	Kim	
1,867,110 A	7/1932	Signore	5,591,024 A	1/1997	Eavenson et al.	
2,088,685 A	8/1937	Birch	5,603,211 A	2/1997	Graves	
2,160,264 A	5/1939	Furlong	5,642,580 A	7/1997	Hess et al.	
2,161,523 A	6/1939	Moecker, Jr. et al.	5,674,065 A	10/1997	Grando et al.	
2,319,676 A	5/1943	Guelson	5,706,859 A	1/1998	Backlund	
2,380,956 A	8/1945	Evarts	5,782,626 A	7/1998	Joos et al.	
2,422,368 A	6/1947	Ray	5,787,874 A	8/1998	Krohn et al.	
2,464,697 A	3/1949	Logan et al.	5,787,928 A	8/1998	Allen et al.	
2,518,894 A	8/1950	Humbarger et al.	5,795,145 A	8/1998	Manning et al.	
2,556,337 A	6/1951	Paille	5,807,098 A	9/1998	Deng	
2,560,245 A	7/1951	Ramsaur et al.	5,814,121 A	9/1998	Travis	
2,588,485 A	3/1952	Clarke et al.	5,816,792 A *	10/1998	Spencer	F23N 1/005 137/113
2,630,821 A	3/1953	Arey et al.	5,838,243 A	11/1998	Gallo	
2,661,157 A	12/1953	Reichelderfer	5,906,197 A	5/1999	French et al.	
2,687,140 A	8/1954	St. Clair et al.	5,915,952 A	6/1999	Manning et al.	
2,905,361 A	9/1959	Noall	5,941,699 A	8/1999	Abele	
2,969,924 A	1/1961	William	5,944,257 A	8/1999	Dietiker et al.	
3,001,541 A	9/1961	St. Clair et al.	5,966,937 A	10/1999	Graves	
3,032,096 A	5/1962	Stoui	5,971,746 A	10/1999	Givens et al.	
3,083,721 A	4/1963	Matthews et al.	5,975,112 A	11/1999	Ohmi et al.	
3,331,392 A	7/1967	Davidson et al.	5,987,889 A	11/1999	Graves et al.	
3,386,656 A	6/1968	Bergquist	5,988,204 A	11/1999	Reinhardt et al.	
3,417,779 A	12/1968	Golay	6,035,893 A	3/2000	Ohmi et al.	
3,430,655 A	3/1969	Forney	6,045,058 A	4/2000	Dobbeling et al.	
3,552,430 A	1/1971	Love	6,076,517 A	6/2000	Kahlke et al.	
3,578,015 A	5/1971	Andersen	6,135,063 A	10/2000	Welden	
3,578,243 A	5/1971	Love	6,162,048 A	12/2000	Griffioen et al.	
3,747,629 A	7/1973	Bauman	6,244,223 B1	6/2001	Welk	
3,800,830 A	4/1974	Etter	6,244,524 B1	6/2001	Tackels et al.	
3,802,454 A	4/1974	Kleuters	6,257,270 B1	7/2001	Ohmi et al.	
3,814,570 A	6/1974	Guigues et al.	6,283,115 B1 *	9/2001	Dempsey	F24H 9/0036 126/110 R
3,814,573 A	6/1974	Karlovetz	6,354,072 B1	3/2002	Hura	
3,829,279 A	8/1974	Qualley et al.	6,354,078 B1	3/2002	Karlsson et al.	
3,843,310 A	10/1974	Massi	6,402,052 B1	6/2002	Murawa	
3,884,413 A	5/1975	Berquist	6,543,235 B1	4/2003	Crocker et al.	
3,939,871 A	2/1976	Dickson	6,607,854 B1	8/2003	Rehg et al.	
4,021,190 A	5/1977	Dickson	6,705,342 B2	3/2004	Santinanavat et al.	
4,081,235 A	3/1978	Van der Veer	6,786,194 B2	9/2004	Koegler et al.	
4,101,257 A	7/1978	Straitz, III	6,832,625 B2	12/2004	Ford	
4,157,238 A	6/1979	Van Berkum	6,845,966 B1	1/2005	Albizuri	
4,171,712 A	10/1979	DeForrest	6,884,065 B2	4/2005	Vandrak et al.	
4,181,154 A	1/1980	Oley et al.	6,901,962 B2	6/2005	Kroupa et al.	
4,290,450 A	9/1981	Swanson	6,904,873 B1	6/2005	Ashton	
4,301,825 A	11/1981	Simko	6,910,496 B2	6/2005	Strom	
4,355,659 A	10/1982	Kelchner	6,938,634 B2	9/2005	Dewey, Jr.	
4,359,284 A	11/1982	Kude et al.	6,941,962 B2	9/2005	Haddad	
4,465,456 A	8/1984	Hynek et al.	7,013,886 B2	3/2006	Deng	
4,474,166 A	10/1984	Shaftner et al.	7,044,729 B2	5/2006	Ayastuy et al.	
4,515,554 A	5/1985	Sirand	7,048,538 B2	5/2006	Albizuri	
4,660,595 A	4/1987	Kuster et al.	7,143,783 B2	12/2006	Emke et al.	
4,718,448 A	1/1988	Love et al.	7,146,997 B2	12/2006	Francis et al.	
4,718,846 A	1/1988	Oguri et al.	7,156,370 B2	1/2007	Albizuri	
4,768,543 A	9/1988	Wienke et al.	7,174,913 B2	2/2007	Albizuri	
4,768,947 A	9/1988	Adachi	7,201,186 B2	4/2007	Ayastuy	
4,796,652 A	1/1989	Hafla	7,225,830 B1	6/2007	Kershaw	
4,848,133 A	7/1989	Paulis et al.	7,251,940 B2	8/2007	Graves et al.	
4,874,006 A	10/1989	Iqbal	7,299,799 B2	11/2007	Albizuri	
4,930,538 A	6/1990	Browne	7,367,352 B2	5/2008	Hagen et al.	
4,958,771 A	9/1990	Klomp	7,434,447 B2	10/2008	Deng	
4,965,707 A	10/1990	Butterfield	7,455,238 B2 *	11/2008	Hughhins	F23N 5/022 126/116 A
5,025,990 A	6/1991	Ridenour	7,458,386 B2	12/2008	Zhang	
5,027,854 A	7/1991	Genbauffe	7,487,888 B1	2/2009	Pierre, Jr.	
5,172,728 A	12/1992	Tsukazaki	7,490,869 B2	2/2009	Iturralde et al.	
5,251,823 A	10/1993	Joshi et al.	7,528,608 B2	5/2009	Elexpuru et al.	
5,278,936 A	1/1994	Shao	7,533,656 B2	5/2009	Dingle	
5,379,794 A	1/1995	Brown	7,591,257 B2	9/2009	Bayer et al.	
5,413,141 A	5/1995	Dietiker	7,600,529 B2	10/2009	Querejeta	
5,452,709 A	9/1995	Mealer	7,607,325 B2	10/2009	Elexpuru et al.	
5,458,294 A	10/1995	Zachary et al.	7,607,426 B2 *	10/2009	Deng	F23Q 9/045 126/116 A

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

7,617,841	B2	11/2009	Zimpfer et al.	
7,634,993	B2	12/2009	Bellomo	
7,637,476	B2	12/2009	Mugica et al.	
7,641,470	B2	1/2010	Albizuri	
7,651,330	B2	1/2010	Albizuri	
7,654,820	B2 *	2/2010	Deng	F23N 1/005 137/1
7,677,236	B2	3/2010	Deng	
7,730,765	B2	6/2010	Deng	
7,758,323	B2	7/2010	Orue	
7,766,006	B1	8/2010	Manning	
7,861,706	B2	1/2011	Bellomo	
7,942,164	B2	5/2011	Hsiao	
7,967,006	B2	6/2011	Deng	
7,967,007	B2	6/2011	Deng	
8,001,957	B2 *	8/2011	Clauss	F23N 1/005 126/39 E
8,011,920	B2 *	9/2011	Deng	F16K 11/0836 137/625
8,057,219	B1	11/2011	Manning et al.	
8,123,150	B2	2/2012	Khan et al.	
8,152,515	B2	4/2012	Deng	
8,235,708	B2	8/2012	Deng	
8,241,034	B2 *	8/2012	Deng	F23D 14/00 126/116 R
8,281,781	B2 *	10/2012	Deng	F23Q 9/045 126/116 A
8,297,968	B2	10/2012	Deng	
8,317,511	B2 *	11/2012	Deng	F23N 1/005 122/25
8,672,670	B2 *	3/2014	Hughhins	F23N 3/082 126/110 R
8,752,541	B2	6/2014	Deng	
2002/0160325	A1	10/2002	Deng	
2002/0160326	A1	10/2002	Deng	
2003/0010952	A1	1/2003	Morete	
2003/0217555	A1	11/2003	Gerhold	
2004/0226600	A1	11/2004	Starer et al.	
2005/0036770	A1	2/2005	Ito et al.	
2005/0167530	A1	8/2005	Ward et al.	
2005/0202361	A1	9/2005	Albizuri	
2005/0208443	A1	9/2005	Bachinski et al.	
2006/0096644	A1	5/2006	Goldfarb et al.	
2006/0201496	A1	9/2006	Shingler	
2006/0236986	A1	10/2006	Fujisawa	
2007/0044856	A1	3/2007	Bonior	
2007/0154856	A1	7/2007	Hallit et al.	
2007/0210069	A1	9/2007	Albizuri	
2007/0215223	A1	9/2007	Morris	
2007/0277803	A1	12/2007	Deng	
2008/0121116	A1	5/2008	Albizuri	
2008/0168980	A1	7/2008	Lyons et al.	
2008/0236688	A1	10/2008	Albizuri	
2008/0236689	A1	10/2008	Albizuri	
2008/0314090	A1	12/2008	Orue Orue et al.	
2009/0039072	A1	2/2009	Llona	
2009/0140193	A1	6/2009	Albizuri Landa	
2009/0159068	A1	6/2009	Querejeta et al.	
2009/0181334	A1 *	7/2009	Moore	F23N 5/102 431/60
2009/0280448	A1	11/2009	Antxia Uribetxbarria et al.	
2010/0035195	A1	2/2010	Querejeta Andueza et al.	
2010/0086884	A1	4/2010	Querejeta Andueza et al.	
2010/0086885	A1	4/2010	Querejeta Andueza et al.	
2010/0089385	A1	4/2010	Albizuri	
2010/0089386	A1	4/2010	Albizuri	
2010/0095945	A1	4/2010	Manning	
2010/0154777	A1	6/2010	Carvalho et al.	
2010/0255433	A1	10/2010	Querejeta Andueza et al.	
2010/0275953	A1	11/2010	Orue Orue et al.	
2010/0310997	A1	12/2010	Mugica Odriozola et al.	
2010/0319789	A1	12/2010	Erdmann et al.	
2011/0226355	A1	9/2011	Benvenuto et al.	
2011/0284791	A1	11/2011	Vasquez et al.	
2012/0006091	A1	1/2012	Deng	

2012/0006426	A1	1/2012	Gorelic	
2012/0012099	A1	1/2012	Deng	
2012/0012103	A1	1/2012	Deng	
2012/0067341	A1	3/2012	Mateos Martin	
2012/0187318	A1	7/2012	Chen	
2012/0255536	A1	10/2012	Deng	
2013/0186492	A1	7/2013	Deng	
2013/0230812	A1 *	9/2013	Schultz	F23N 5/00 431/12

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN	1873268	12/2006
CN	1873268 A	12/2006
DE	113 680 C	11/1899
DE	720 854 C	5/1942
DE	1650303	9/1970
DE	1959677	5/1971
DE	3700233	7/1988
DE	19543018	5/1997
EP	0509626	10/1992
EP	1326050	7/2003
EP	1970625	9/2008
GB	191219845	0/1913
GB	1136468	12/1968
GB	2210155	6/1989
GB	2241180	8/1991
GB	2298039	8/1996
JP	58 219320 A	12/1983
JP	59009425	1/1984
JP	03 230015 A	10/1991
JP	05-256422	5/1993
JP	10 141656	5/1998
JP	11 192166	7/1999
JP	11-344216	12/1999
JP	2000234738	8/2000
JP	2003 056845 A	2/2003
JP	2003 074837 A	3/2003
JP	2003 074838 A	3/2003
JP	2010071477	4/2010
WO	WO 2008/071970	6/2008
WO	WO 2011/156425	12/2011
WO	WO 2012/099825	7/2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Heat and Glo, Escape Series Gas Fireplaces, Mar. 2005.

Heat and Glo, Escape-42DV Owner's Manual, Rev. i, Dec. 2006.

Napoleon, Park Avenue Installation and Operation Instructions, Jul. 20, 2006.

Napoleon, The Madison Installation and Operation Instructions, May 24, 2005.

Country Flame Technologies Inglenook Fireplace Gas Log Set Model INGLS 24-N or INGLS 24-P Natural Gas or Propane Conversion Kit, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Manual, 2004.

Desa Heating Products, Technical Service Training Manual, 2004.

Flagro F-400T Dual Fuel Construction Heater, Operating Instructions Manual.

Heat Wagon S1505 Construction Heater, Installation and Maintenance Manual, Jul. 29, 2002.

Jotul GF 3 BVallagash B-Vent Gas Heater, Installation and Operating Instructions, Dec. 2000.

Vanguard Unvented (Vent-Free) Propane/LP Gas Log Heater Manual, Feb. 2004.

White Mountain Hearth, The Vail Vent-Free Gas Fireplace, Installation Instructions and Owner's Manual, Mar. 2006.

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-36, Mar. 2001.

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-33, Apr. 2001.

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFHD-32 and VFHS-36, Apr. 2003.

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFHD-32 and VFHS-36, Sep. 2003.

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFHD-32 and VFHS-36, Feb. 2004.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFHD-32 and VFHS-36, Sep. 2004.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFHD-32 and VFHS-36, Jun. 2005.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFP32FP and VFP36FP, Mar. 2006.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Models VFP32FP and VFP36FP, May 2006.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-20, Jun. 2002.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-20, Sep. 2003.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-20, Nov. 2003.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-20, Sep. 2004.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-20, Jun. 2005.
 Installation Instructions and Owner's Manuals for Empire Unvented Gas Fireplace Model VFHS-32, Aug. 2002.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's Answer to the First Amended Complaint, Aug. 27, 2014.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): Heating's First Amended Complaint, Aug. 13, 2014.

Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): Claims Construction Memorandum Opinion and Order, Jul. 8, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's Initial Invalidity Contentions, Mar. 31, 2014.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit A, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit B, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit C, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit D, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit E, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit F, Sep. 4, 2015.
Procom Heating, Inc. v. GHP Group, Inc. (W.D. KY, Case No. 1:13-cv-00163-GNS-HBB): GHP's 2nd Amended Initial Invalidity Contentions, Claims Chart—Exhibit G, Sep. 4, 2015.

* cited by examiner

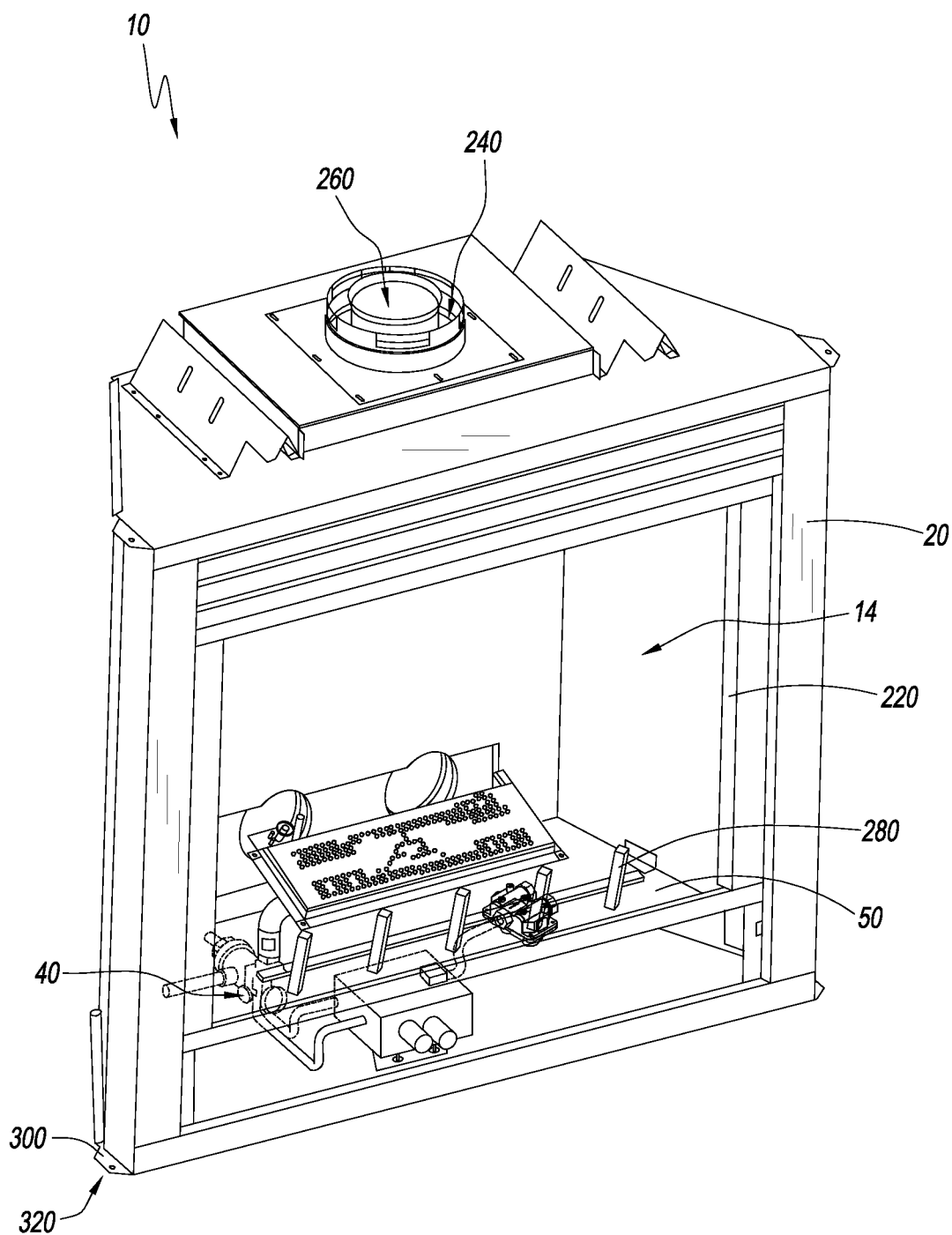


FIG. 1

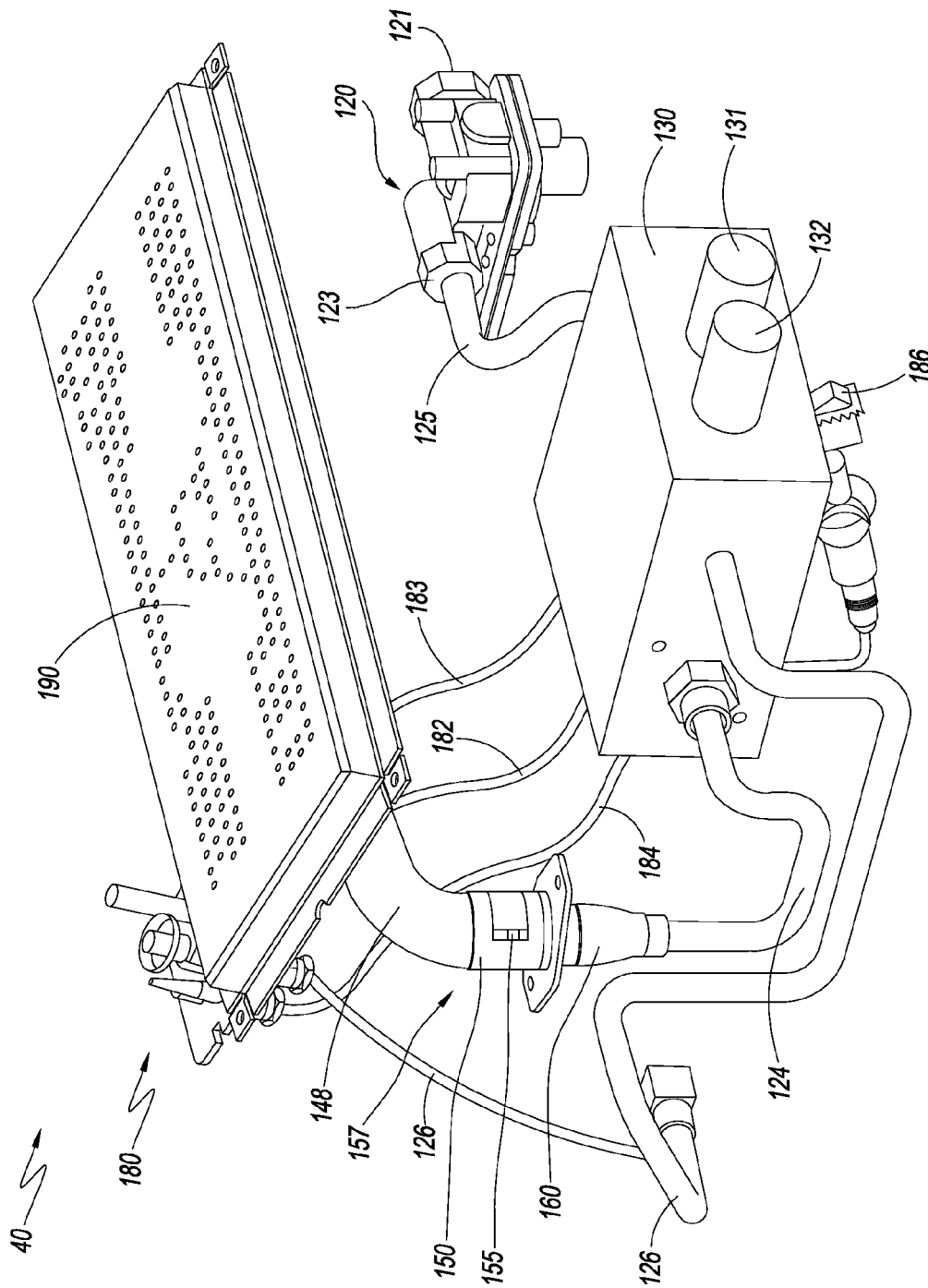


FIG. 2

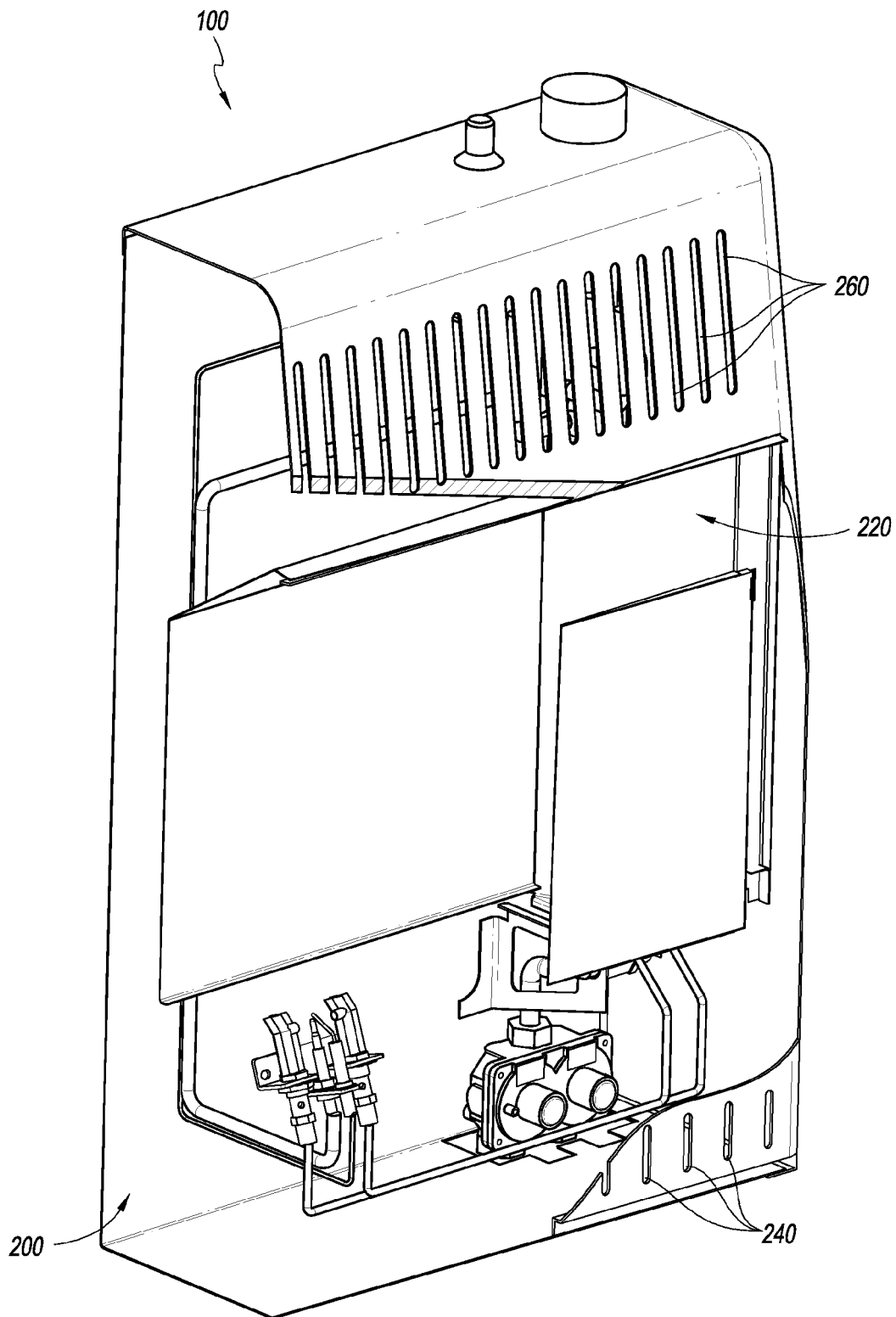


FIG. 3

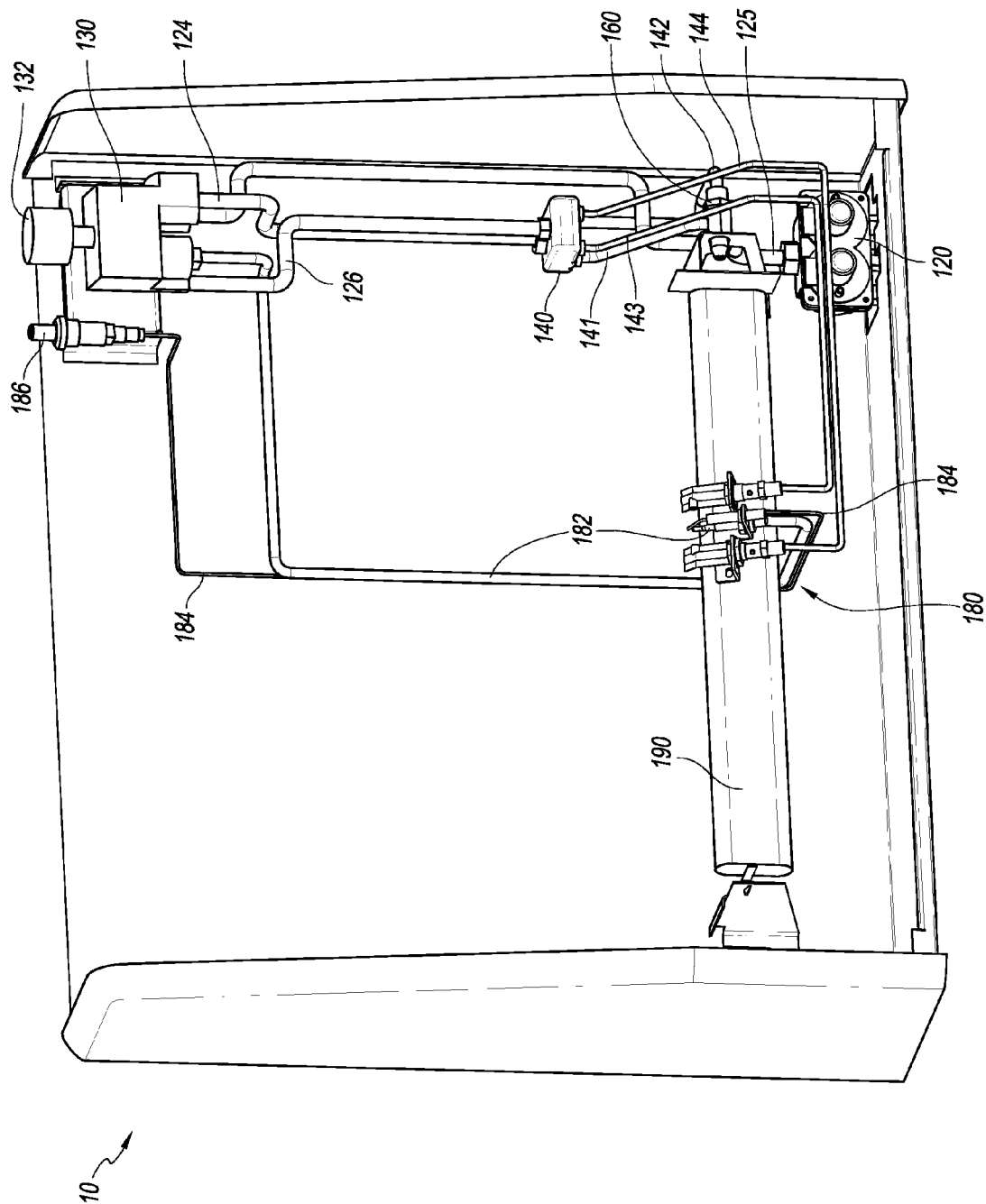


FIG. 4

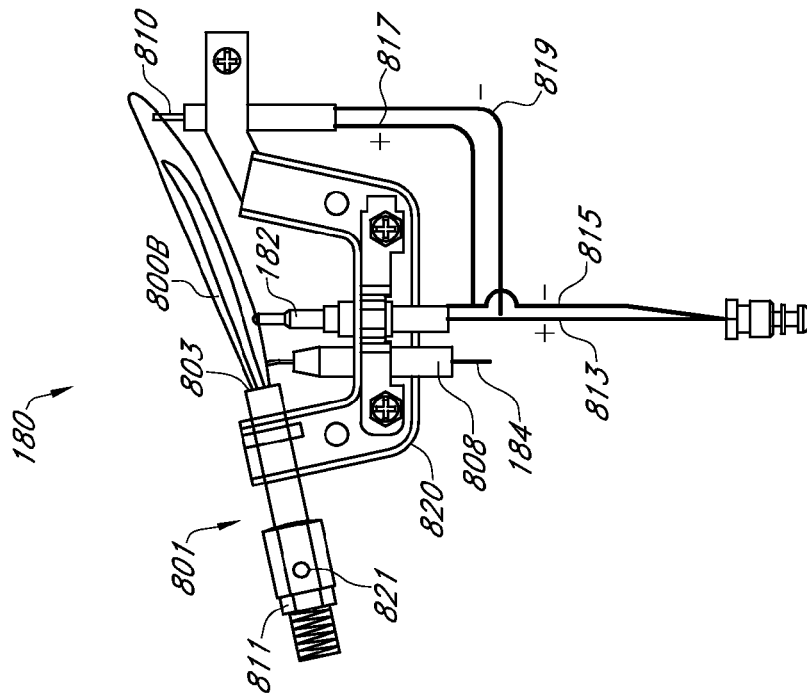


FIG. 5

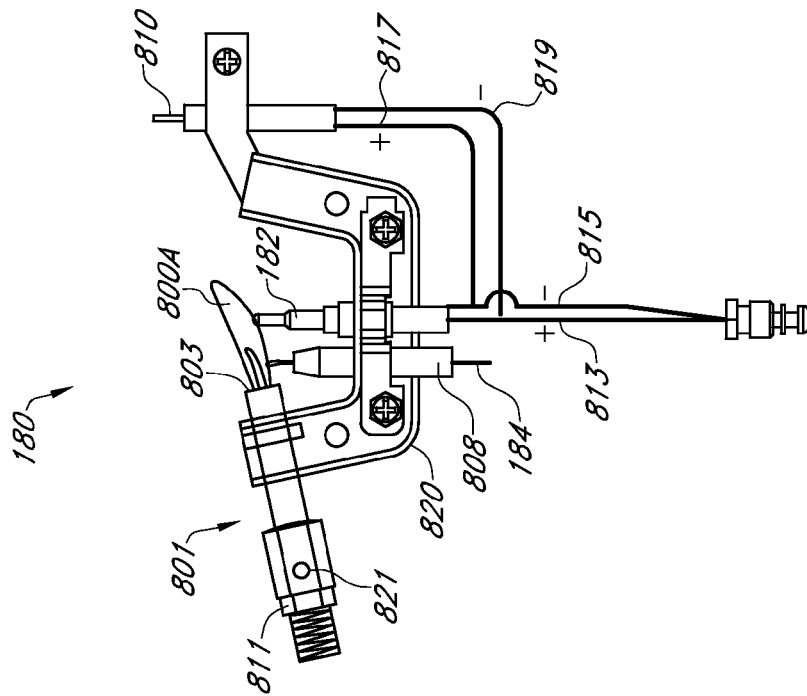


FIG. 6

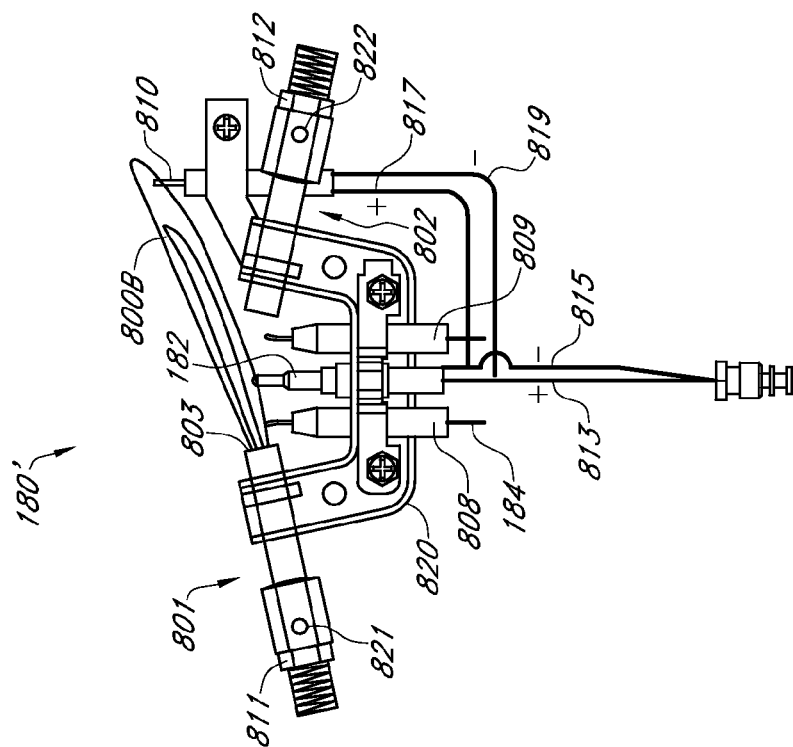


FIG. 8

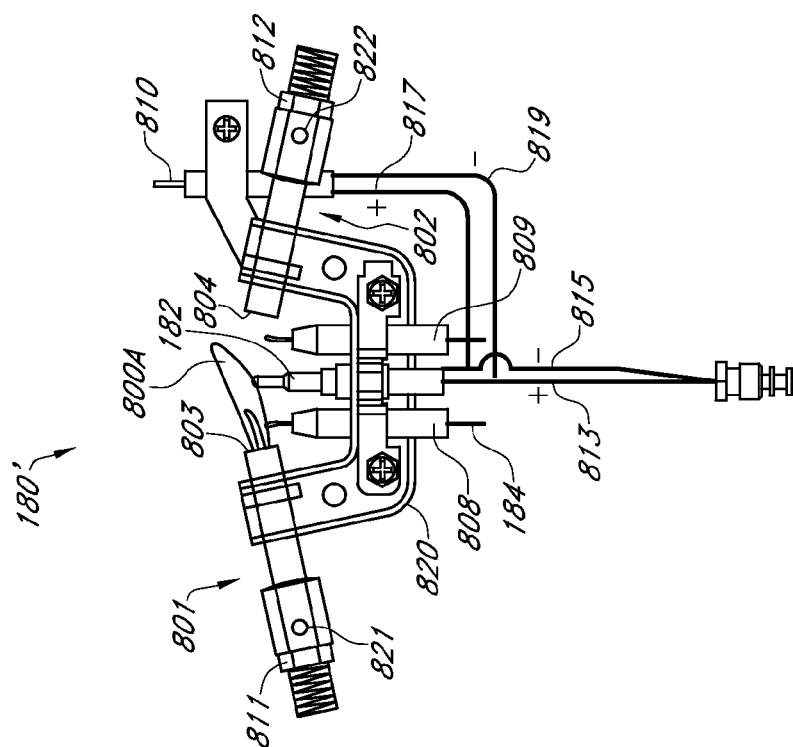


FIG. 7

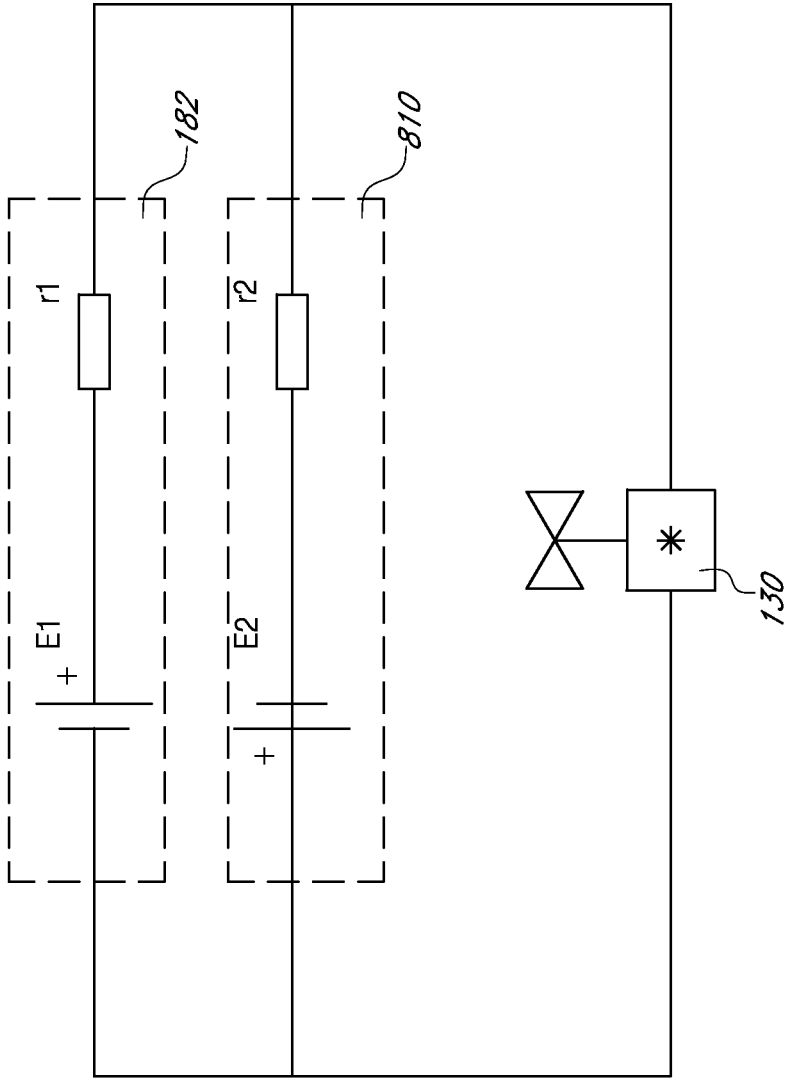


FIG. 9

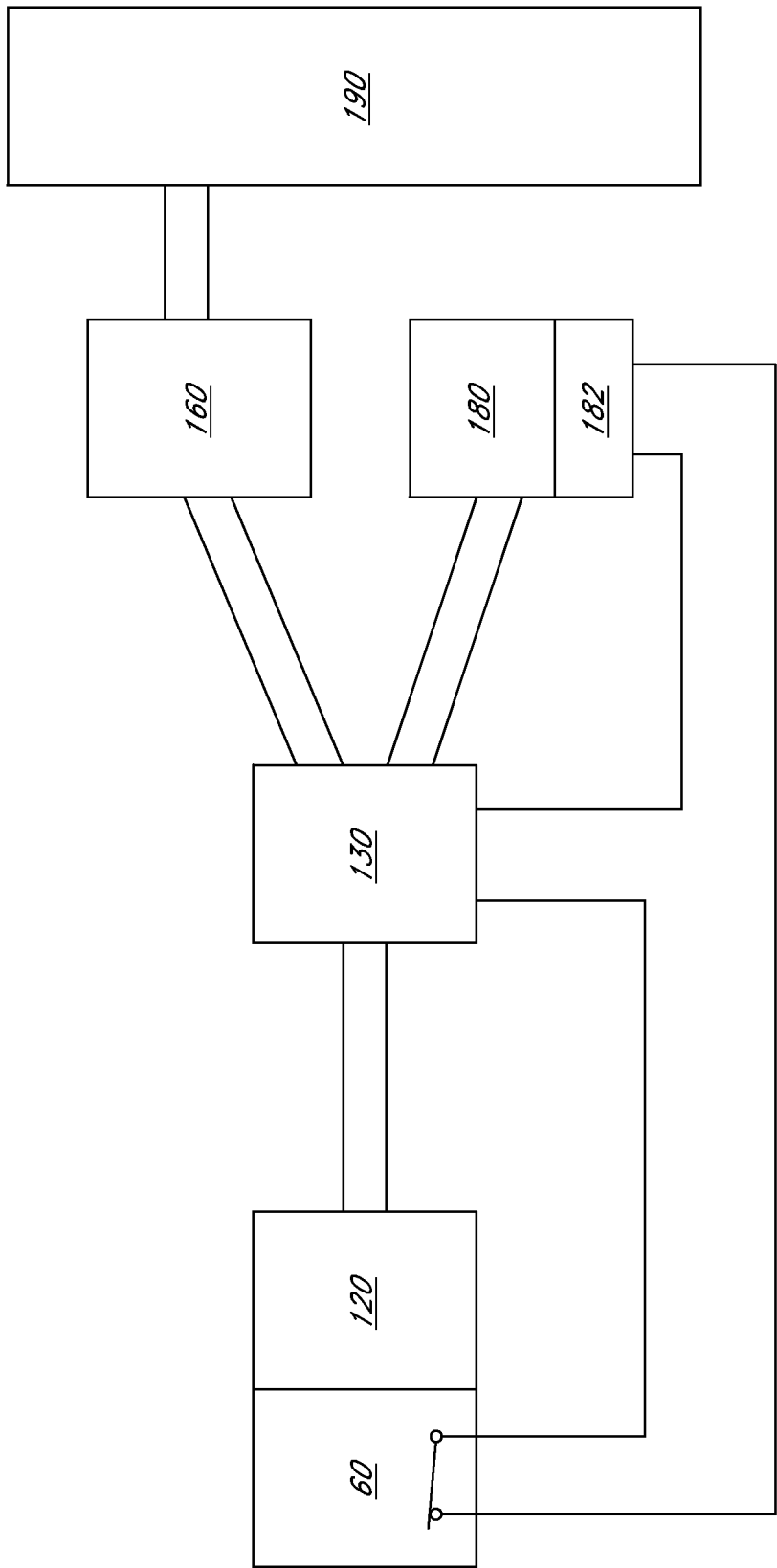


FIG. 10

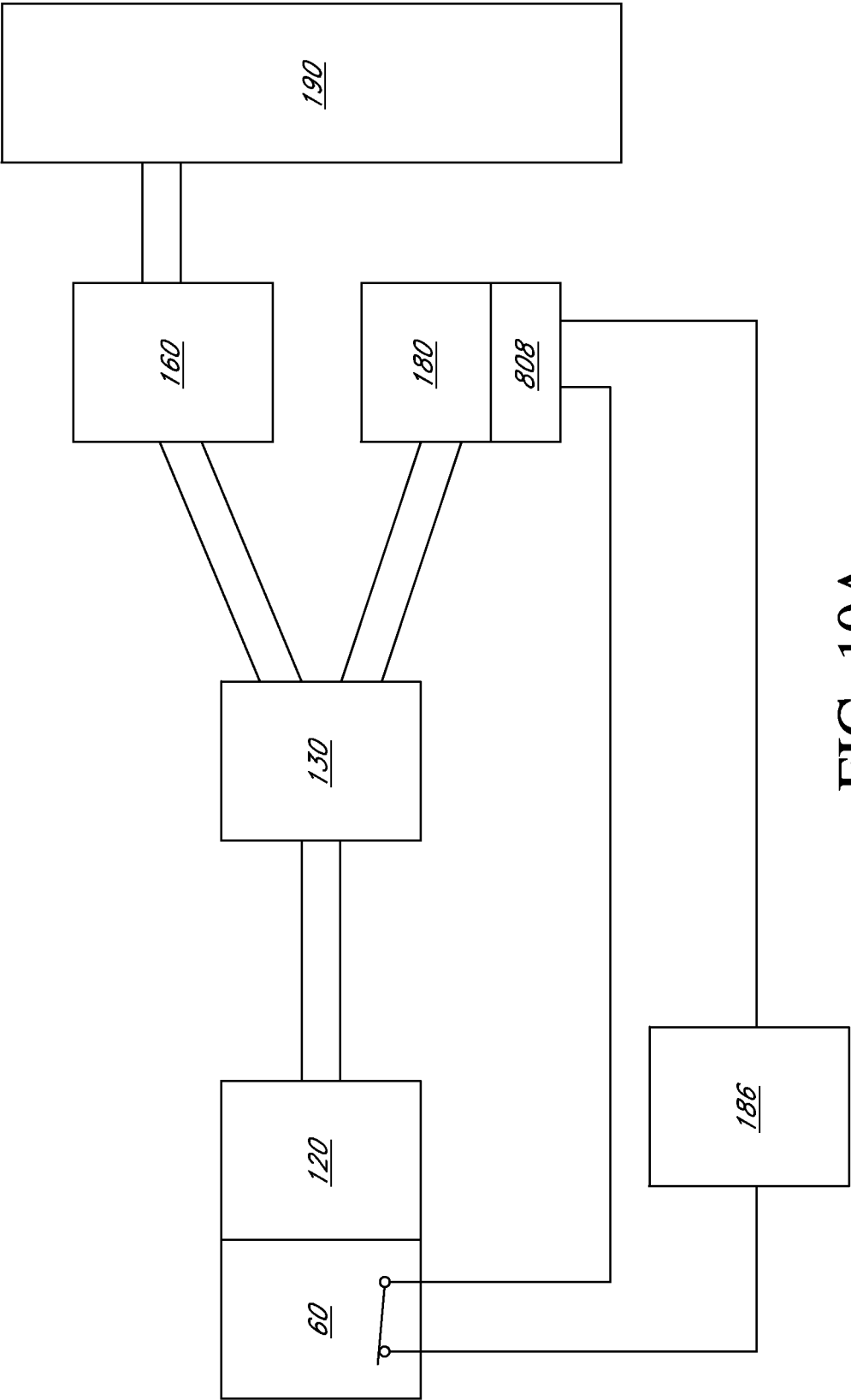


FIG. 10A

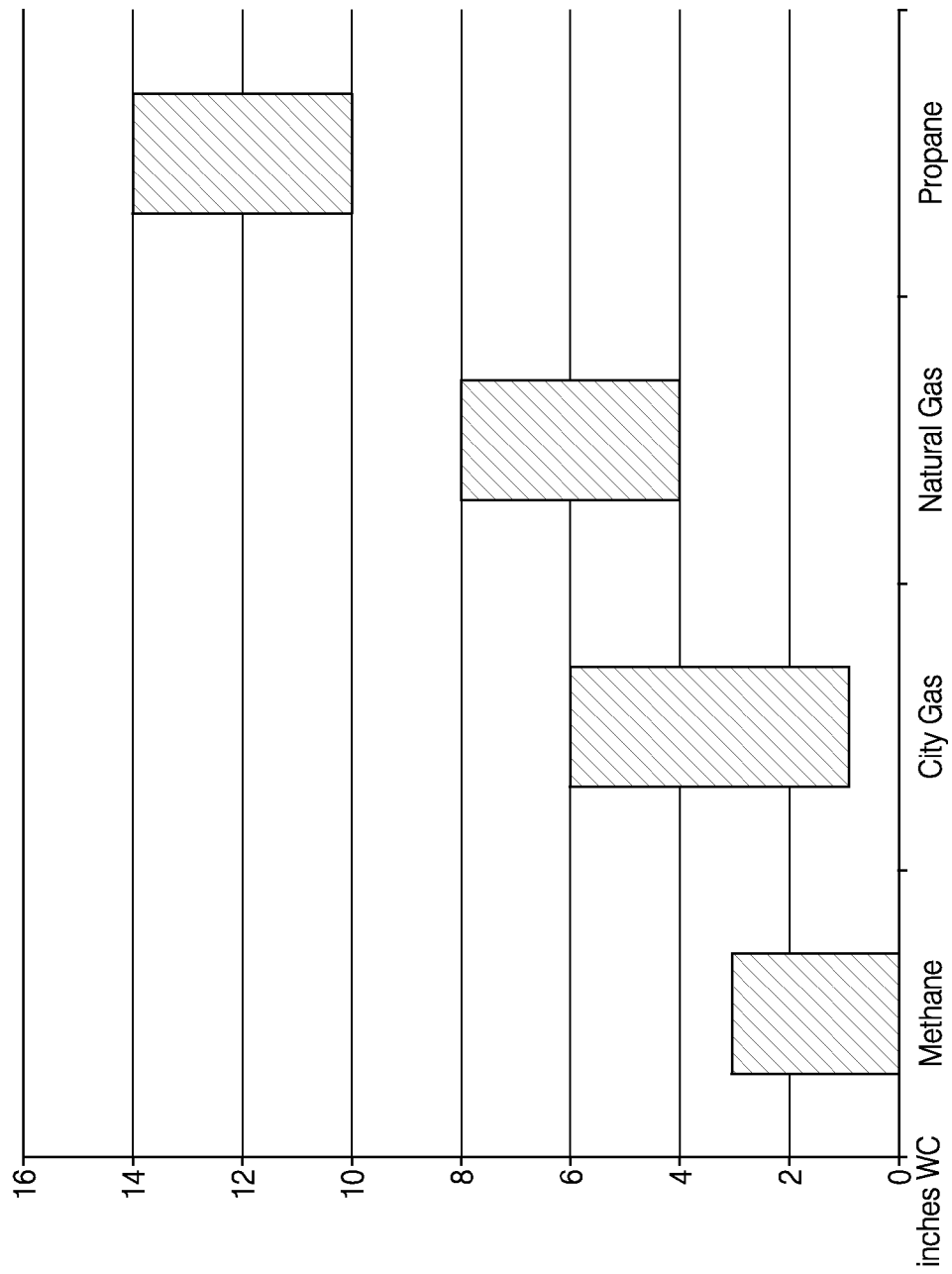


FIG. 11

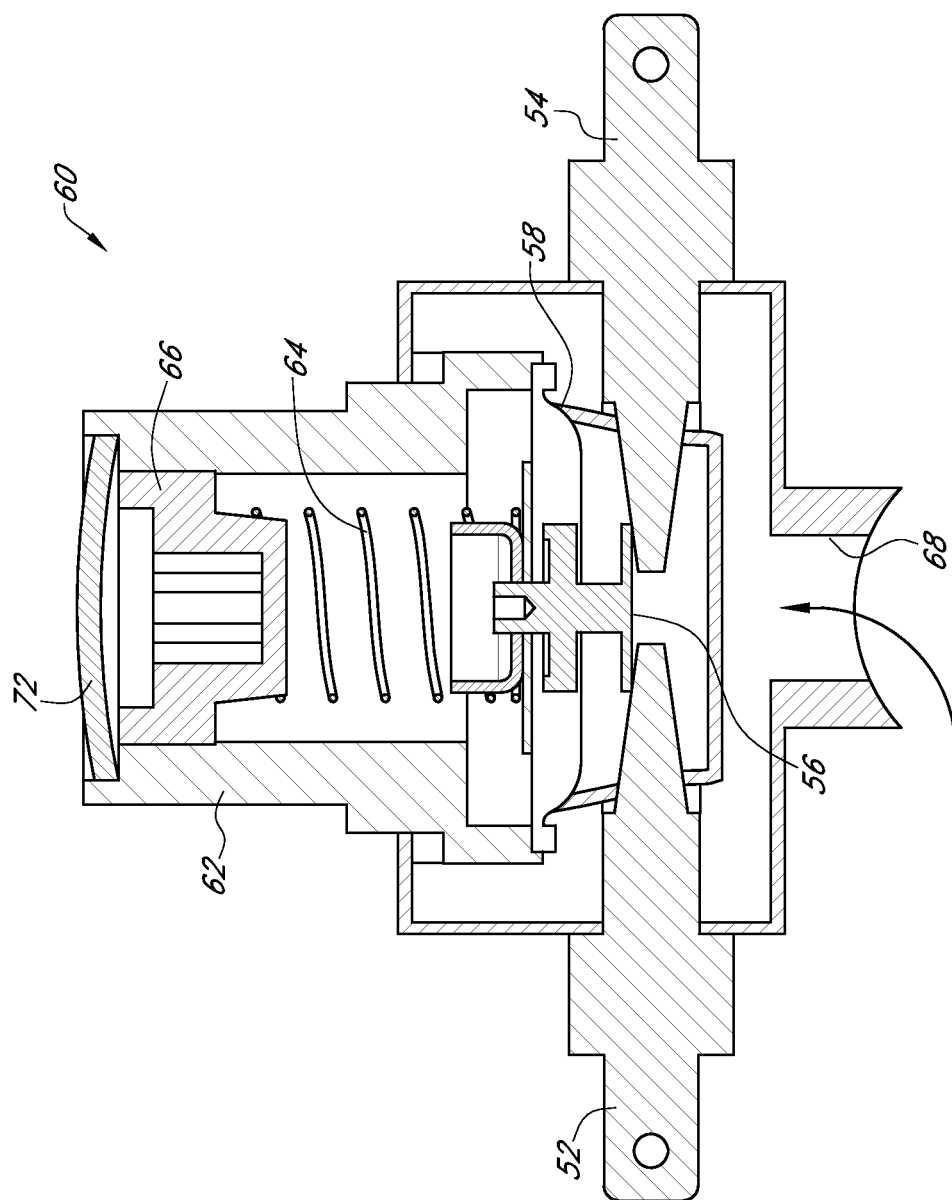


FIG. 12

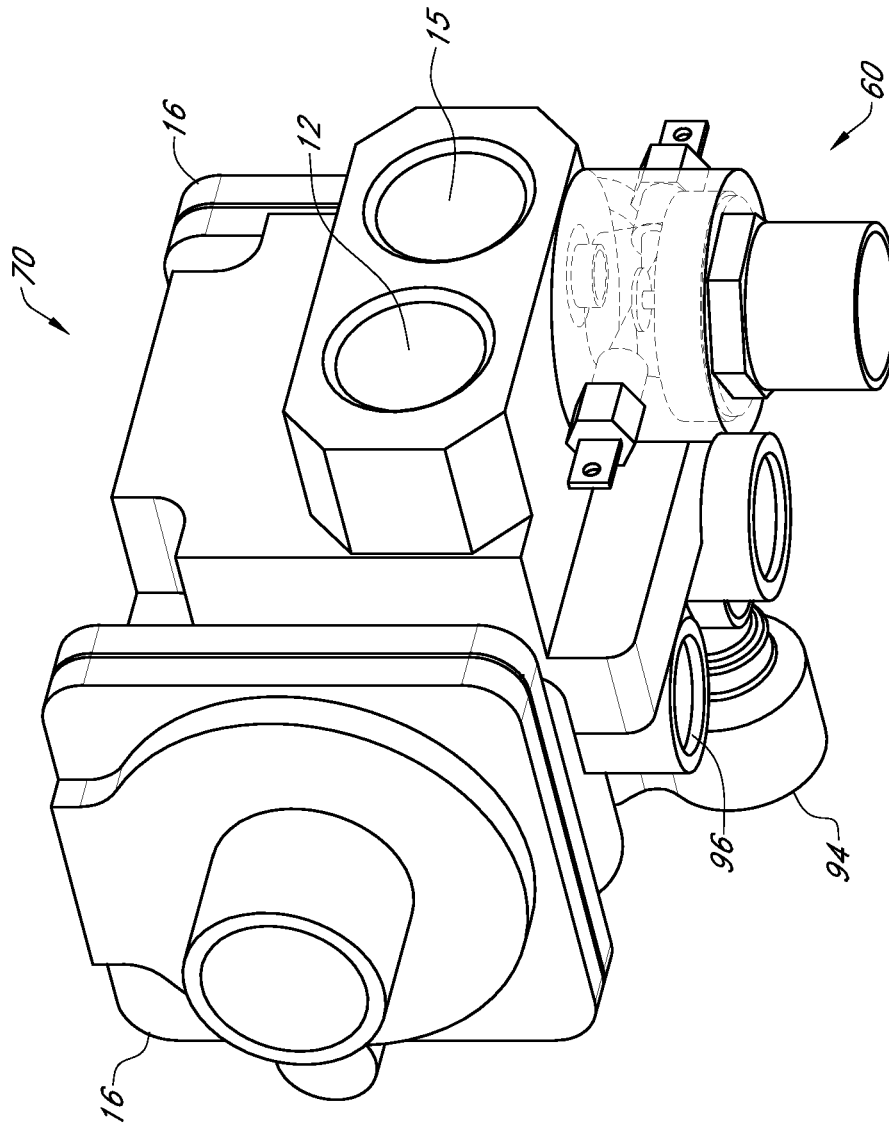


FIG. 13

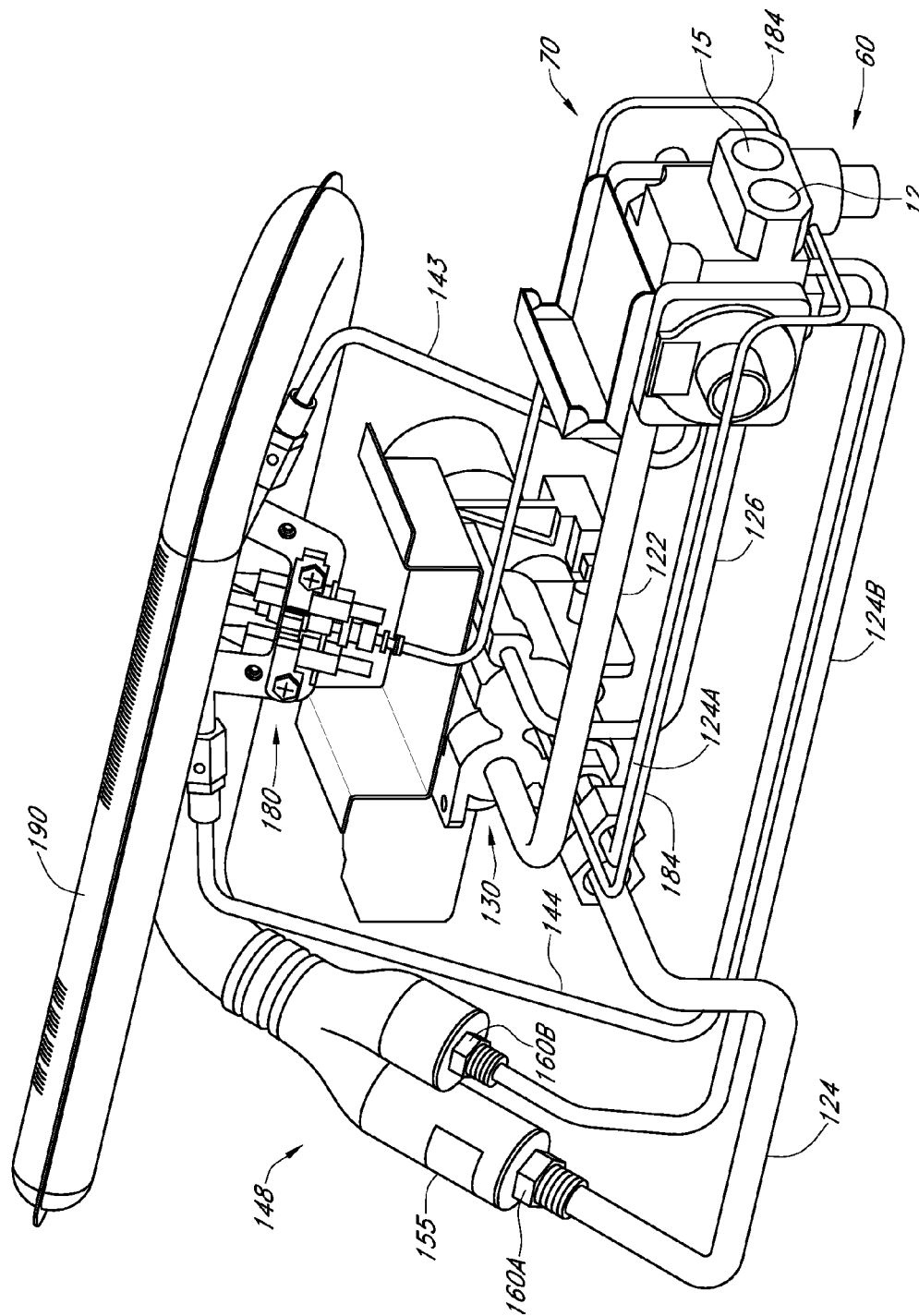


FIG. 14

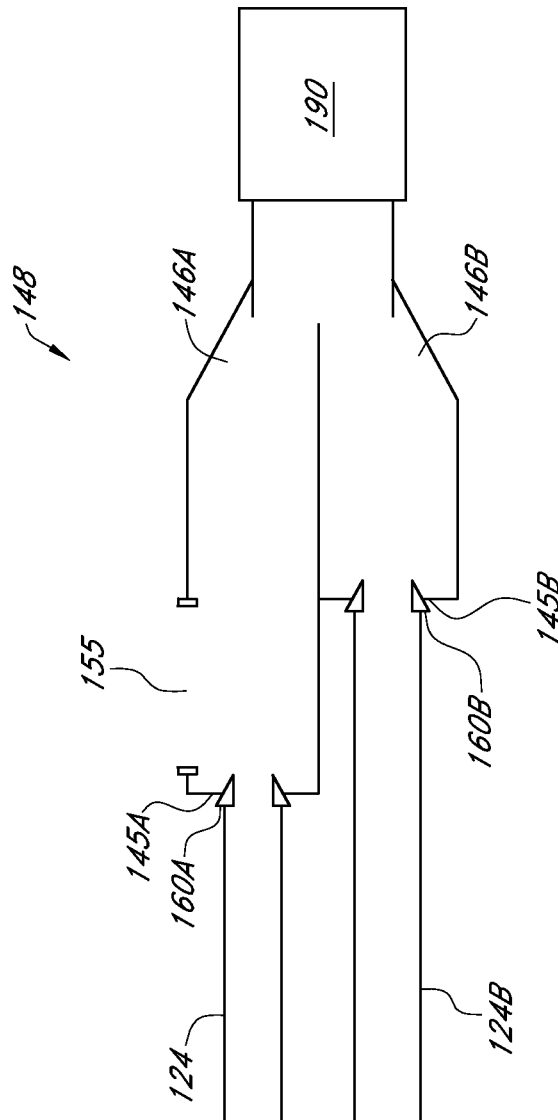


FIG. 14A

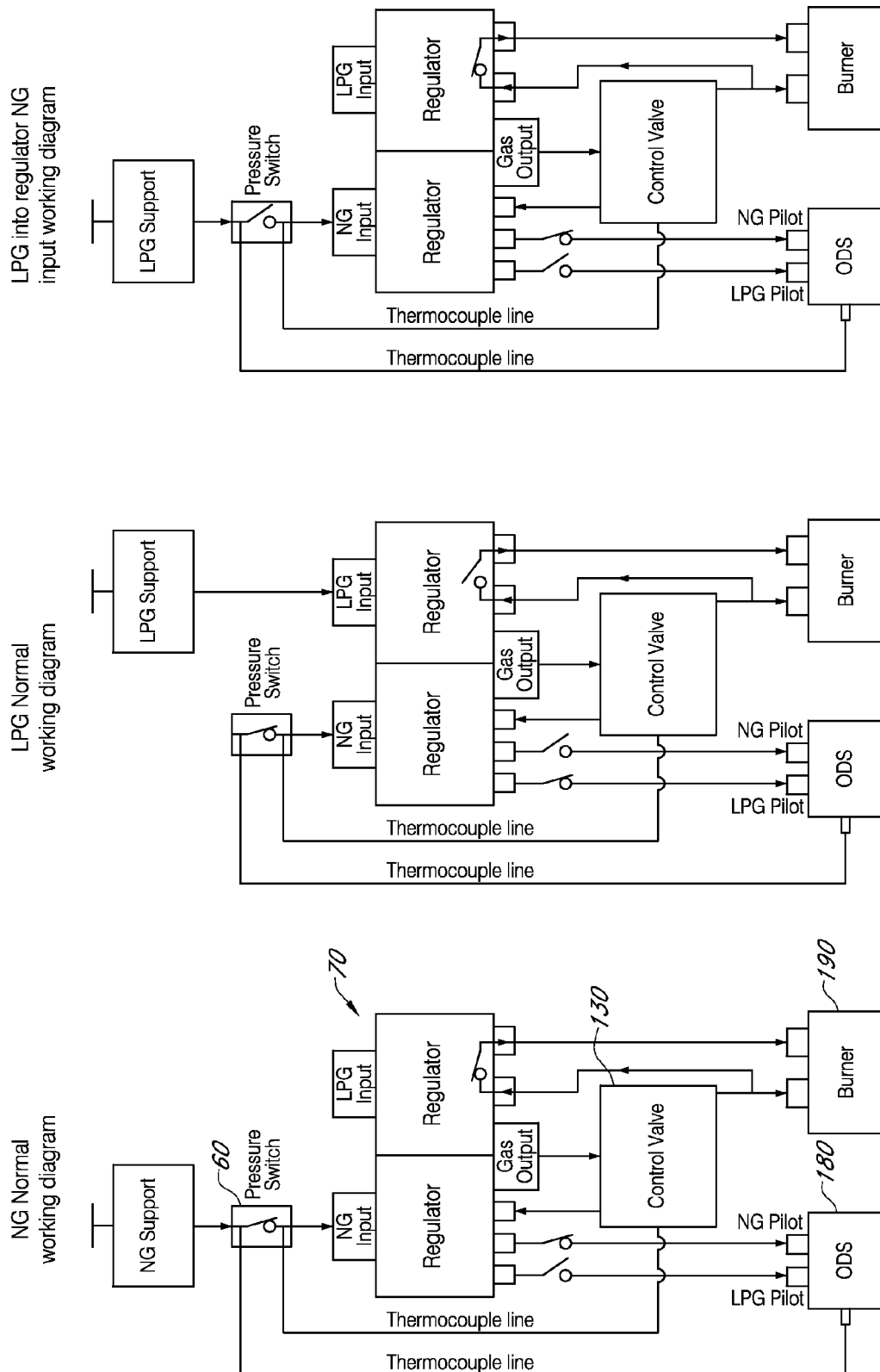


FIG. 15

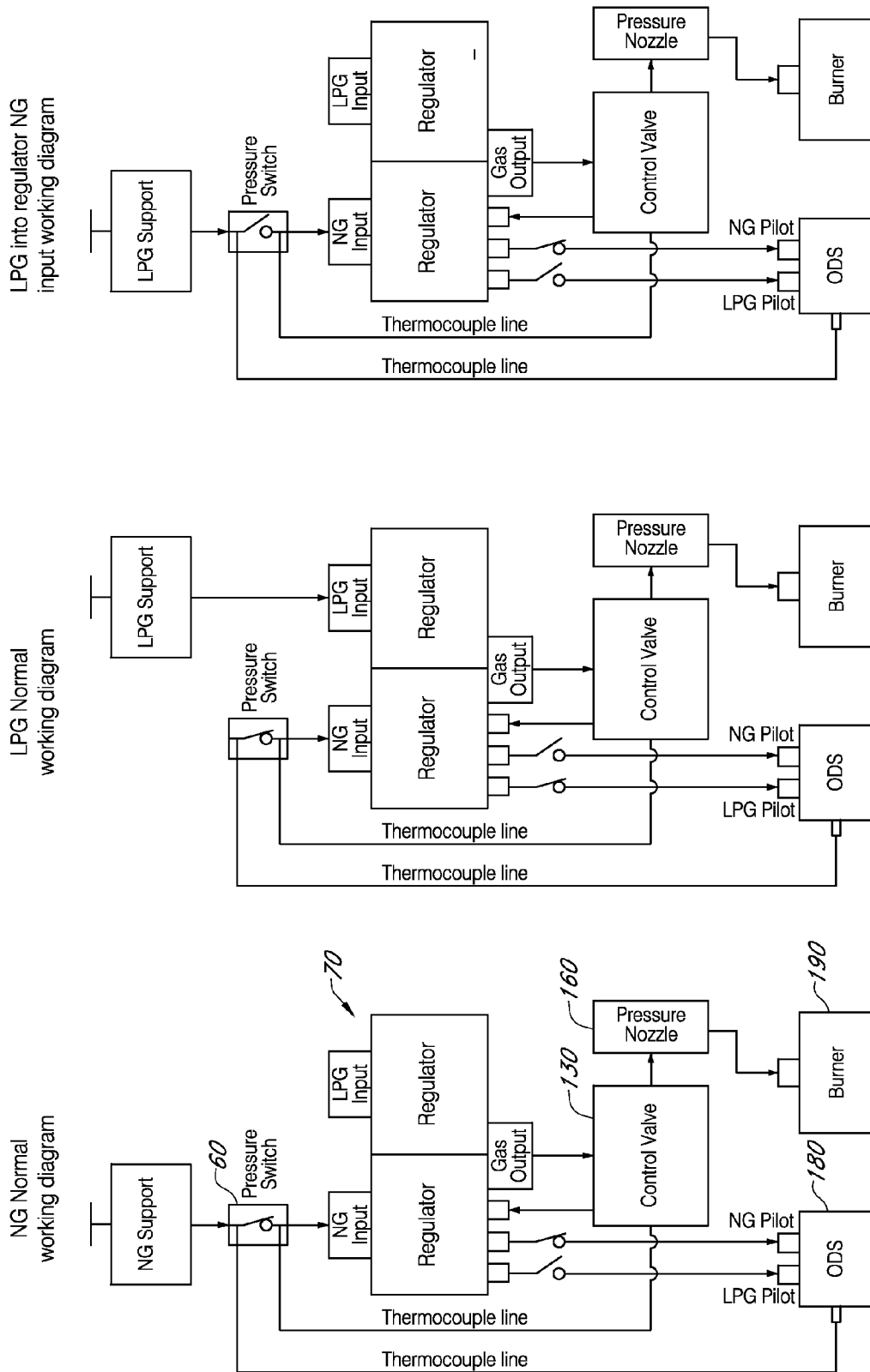


FIG. 16

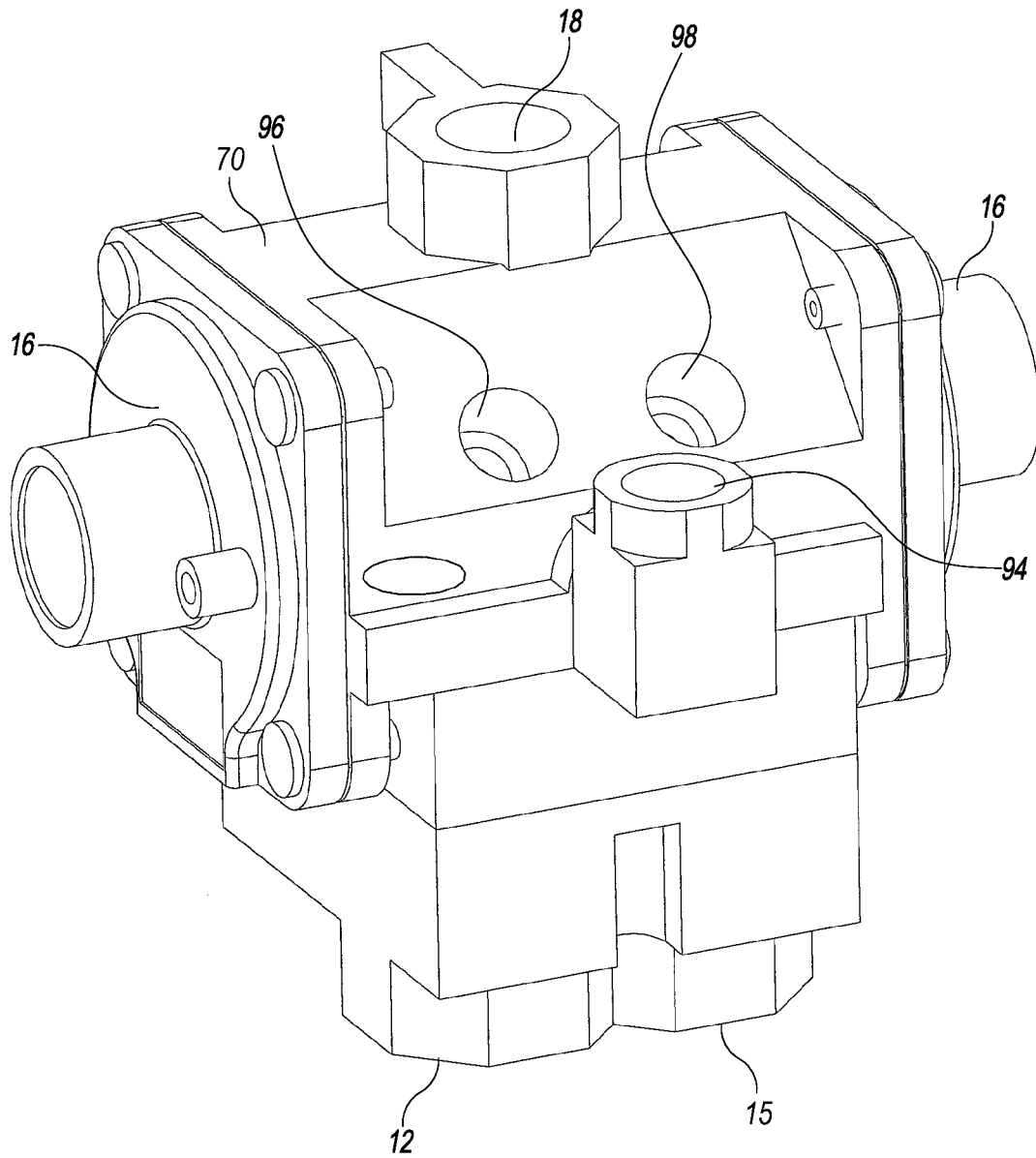


FIG. 17

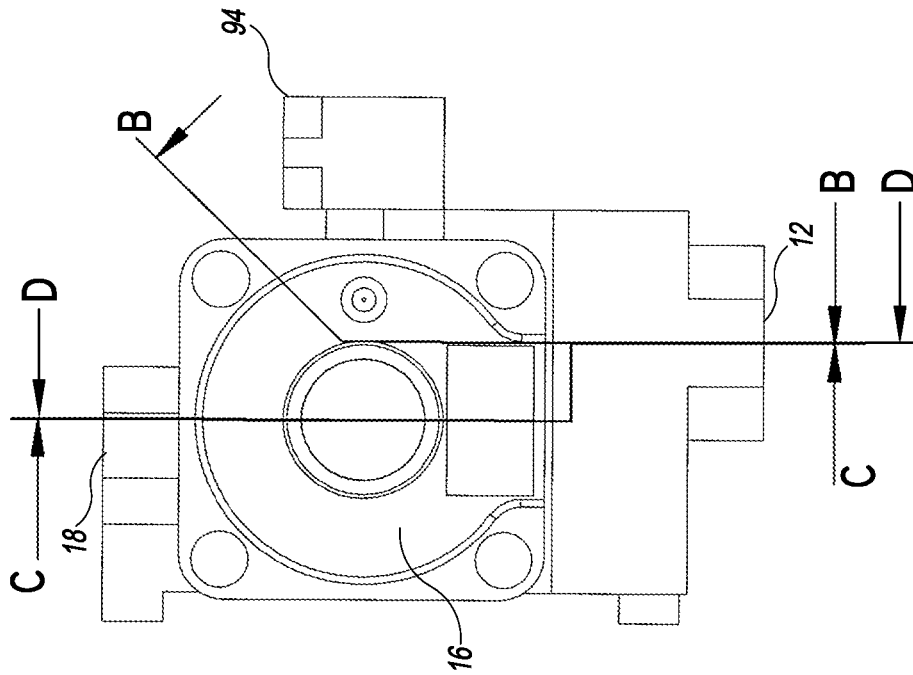
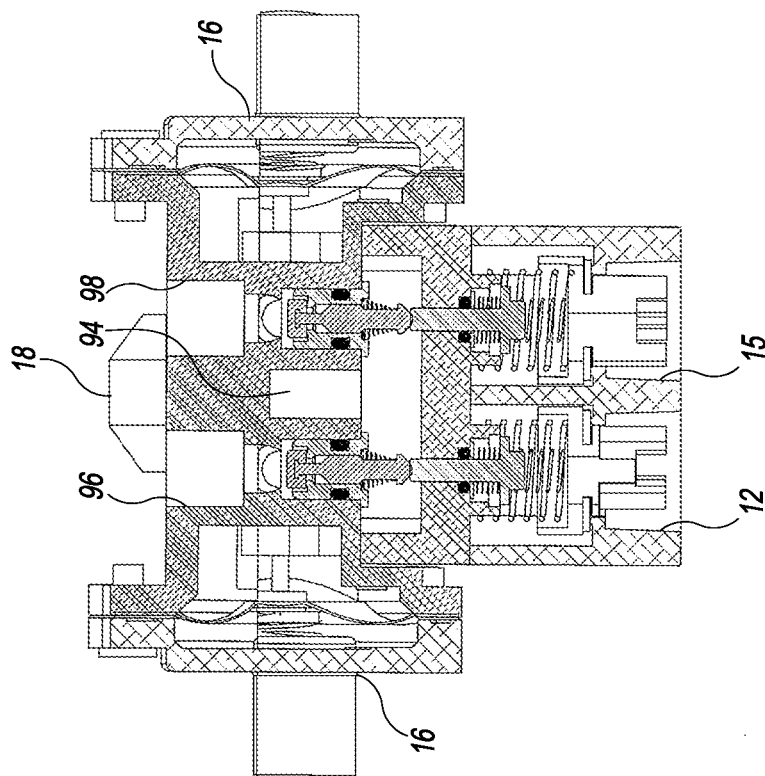


FIG. 17A



B-B
FIG. 19

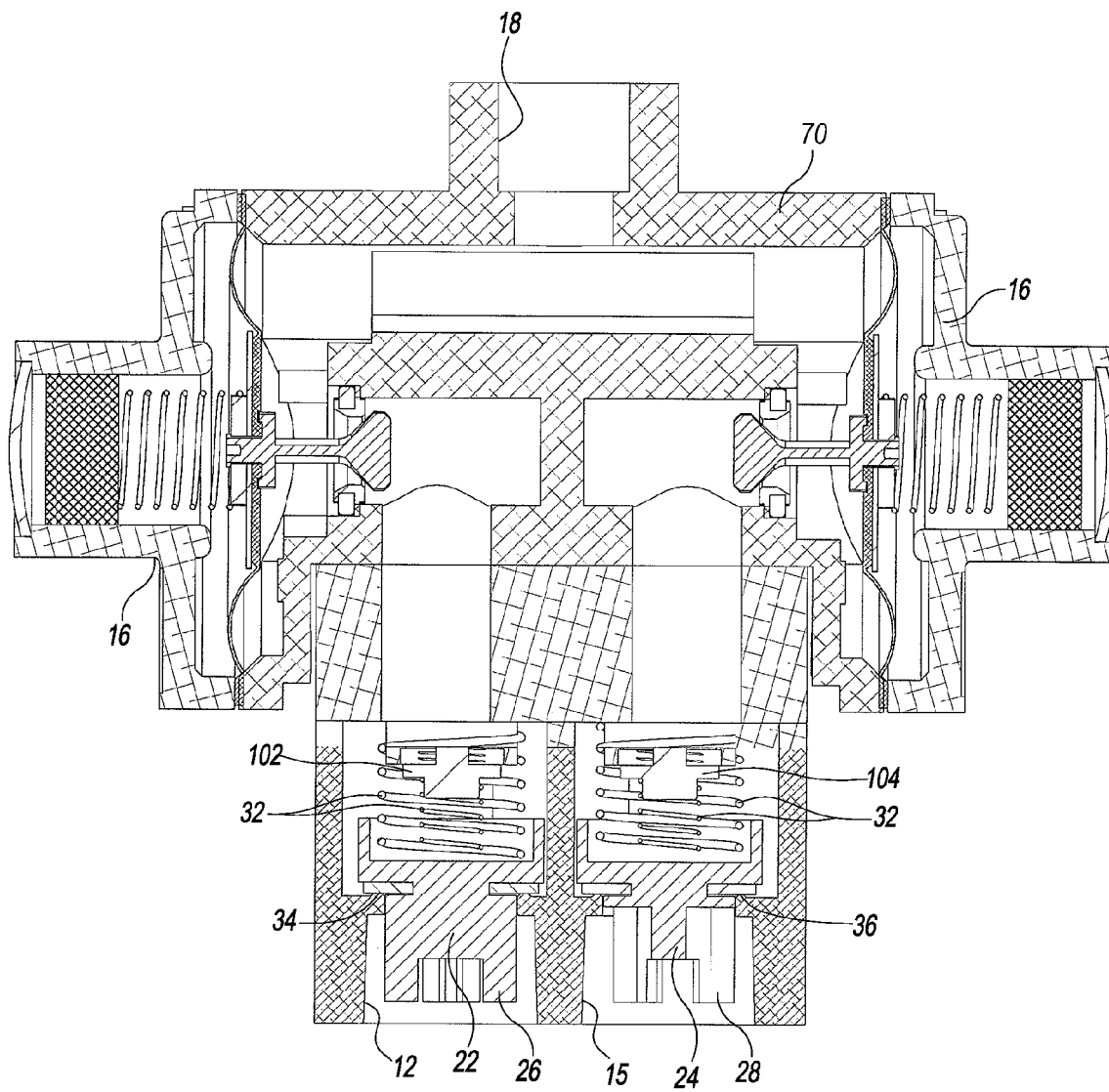


FIG. 18

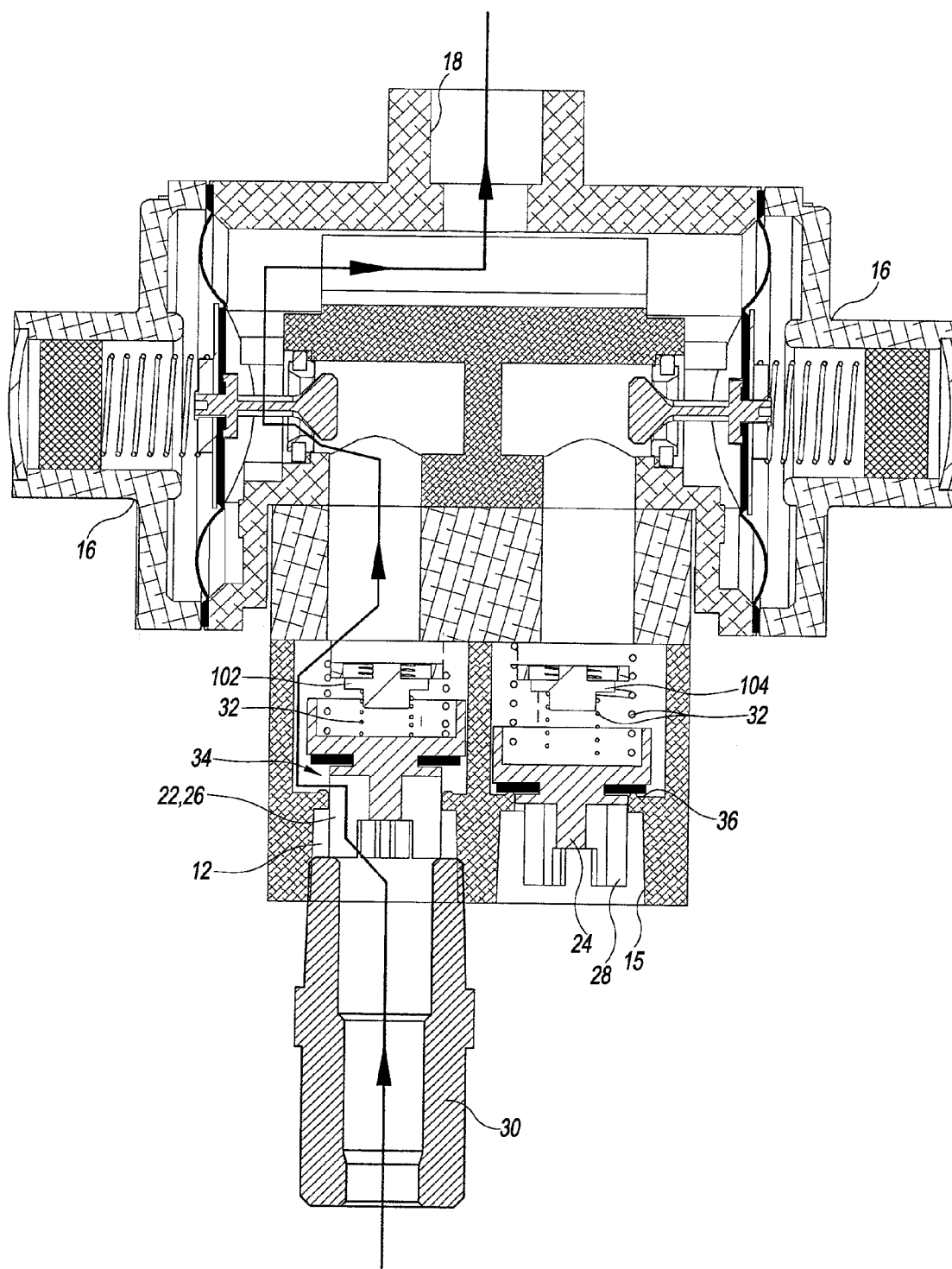


FIG. 20

FIG. 21

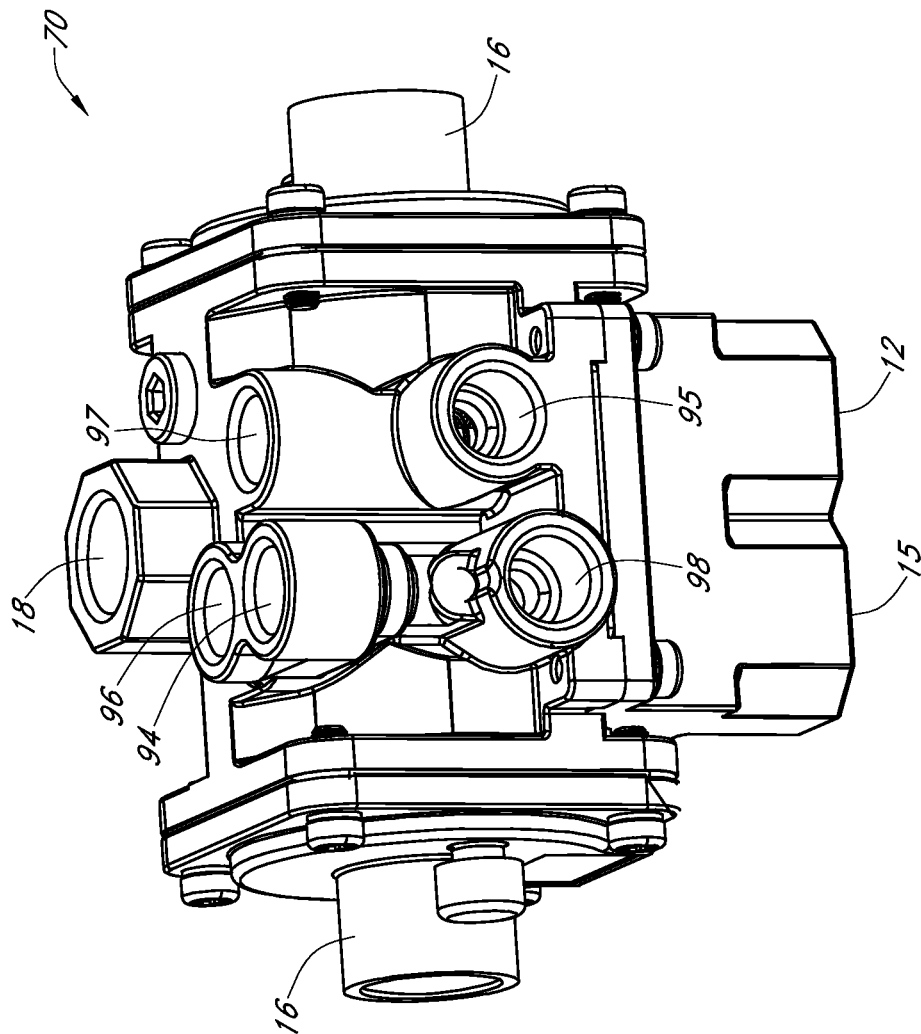


FIG. 22

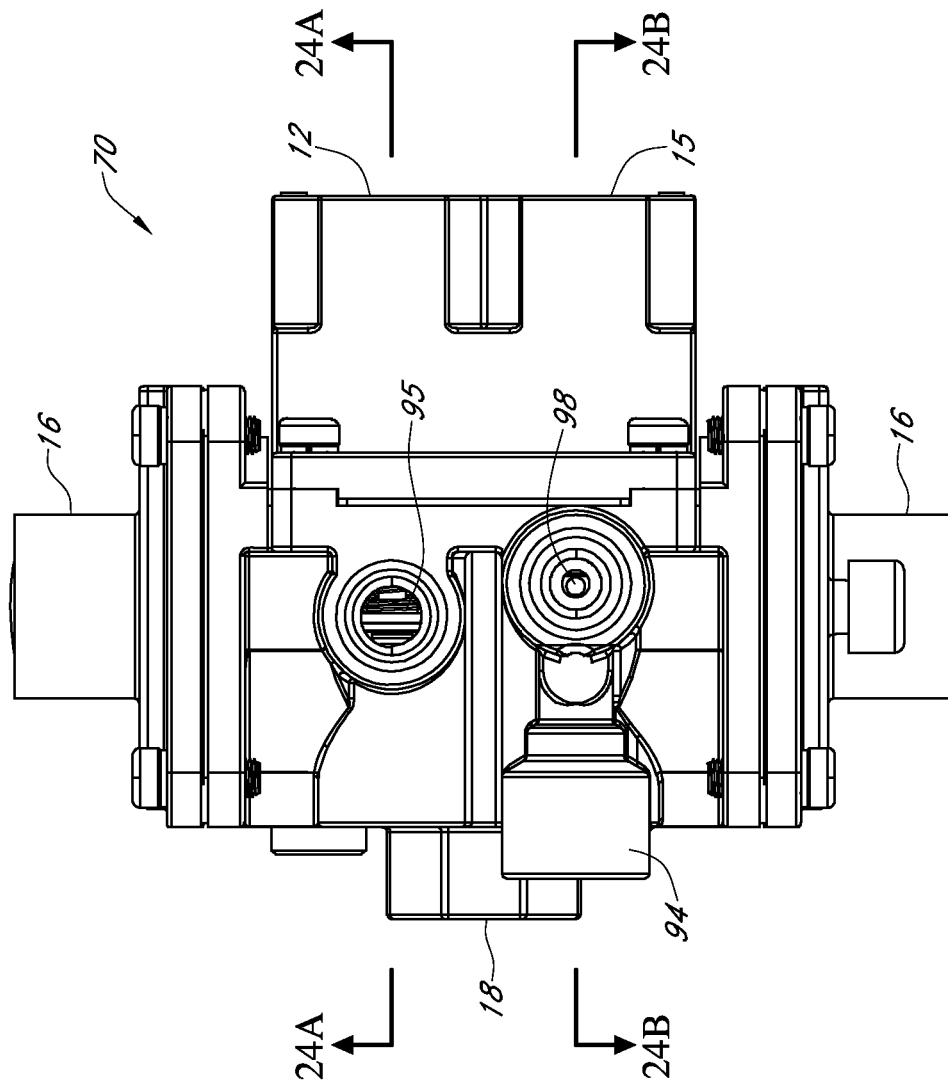


FIG. 23

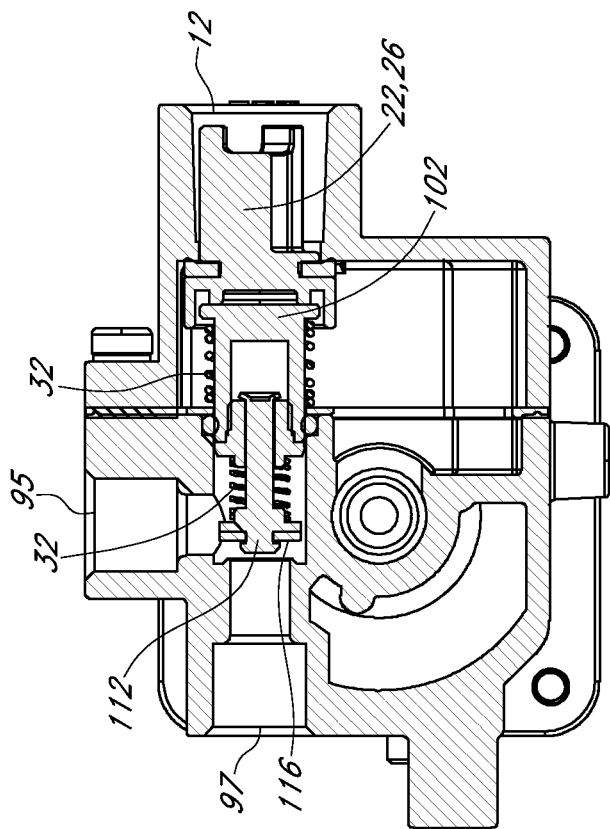


FIG. 24A

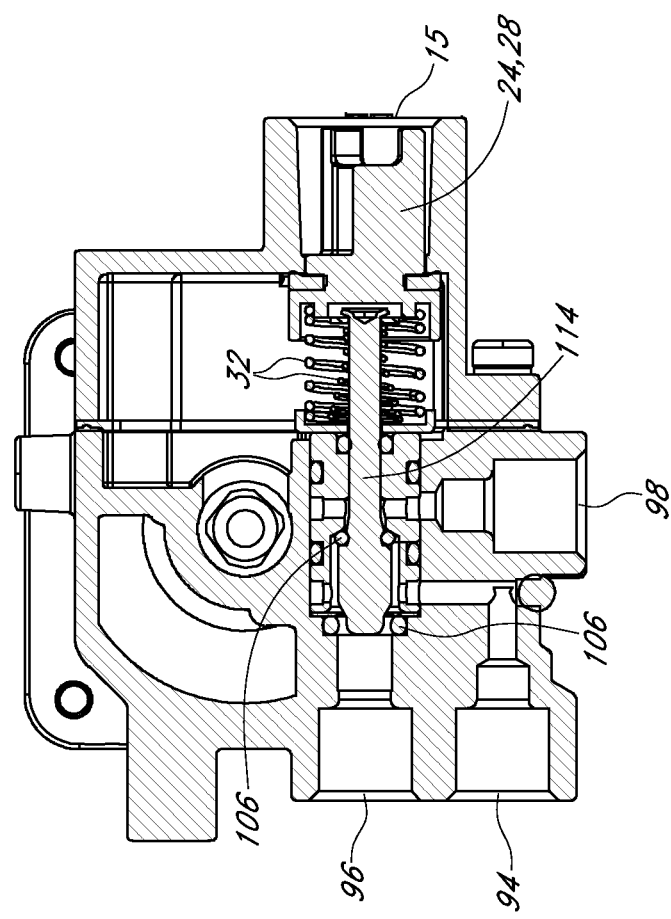


FIG. 24B

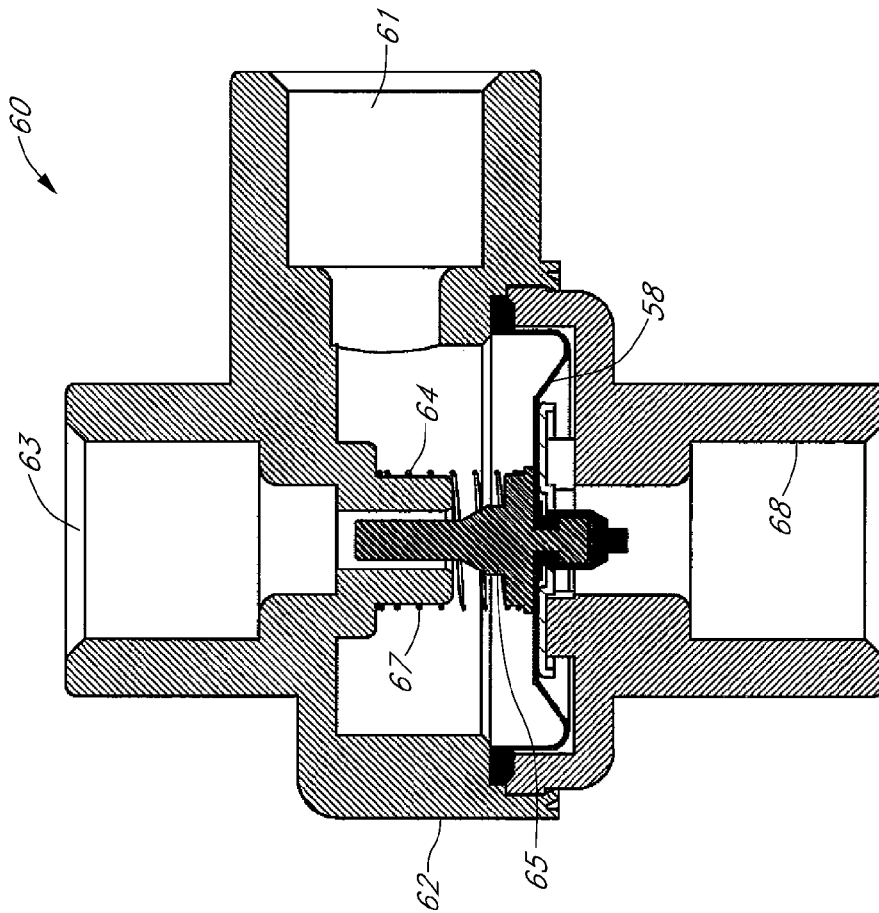


FIG. 25B

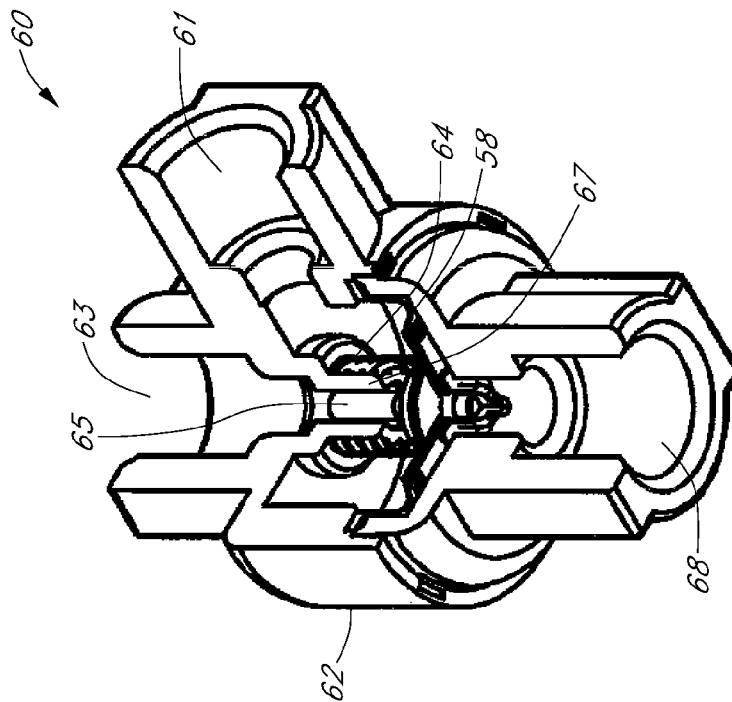


FIG. 25A

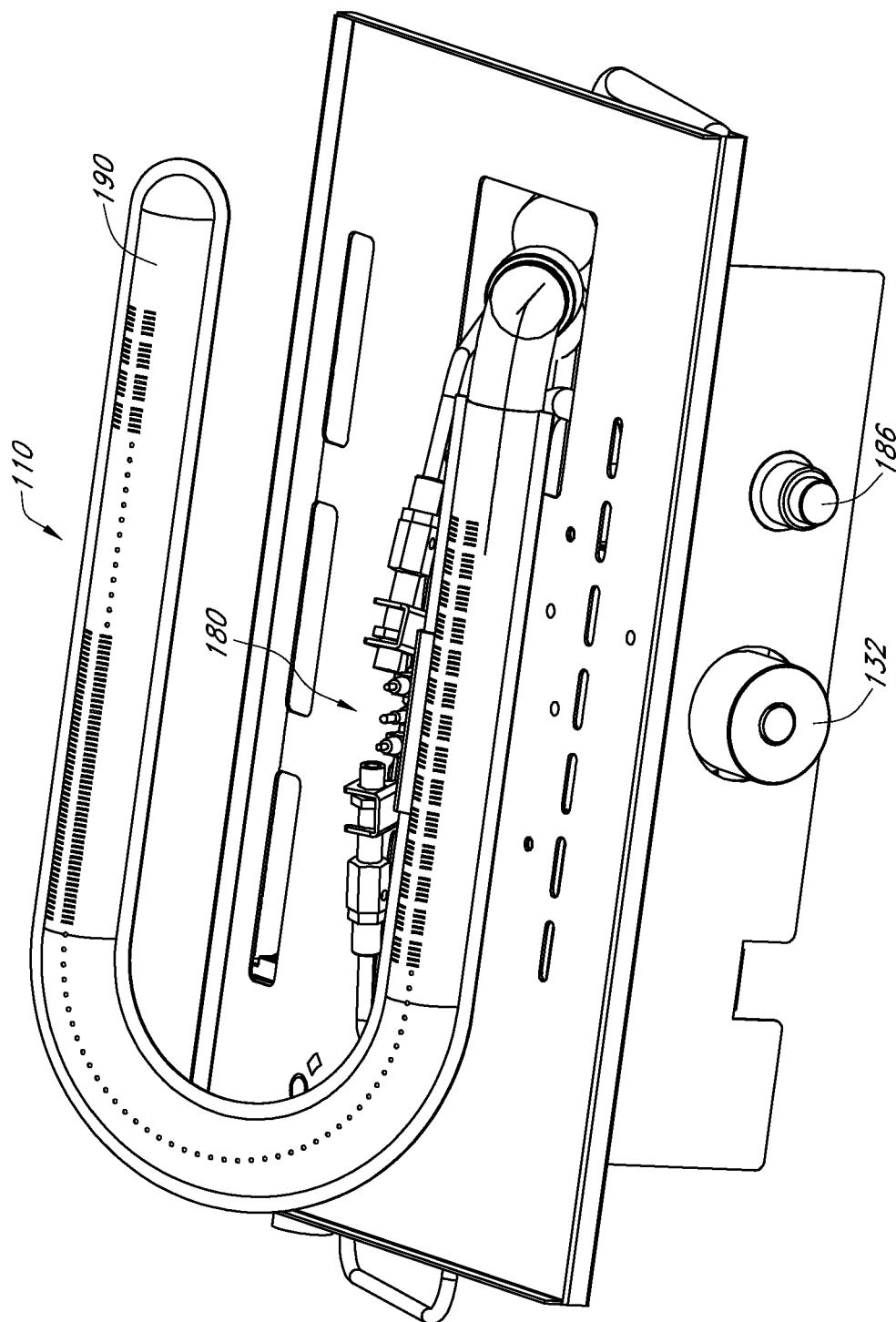


FIG. 26

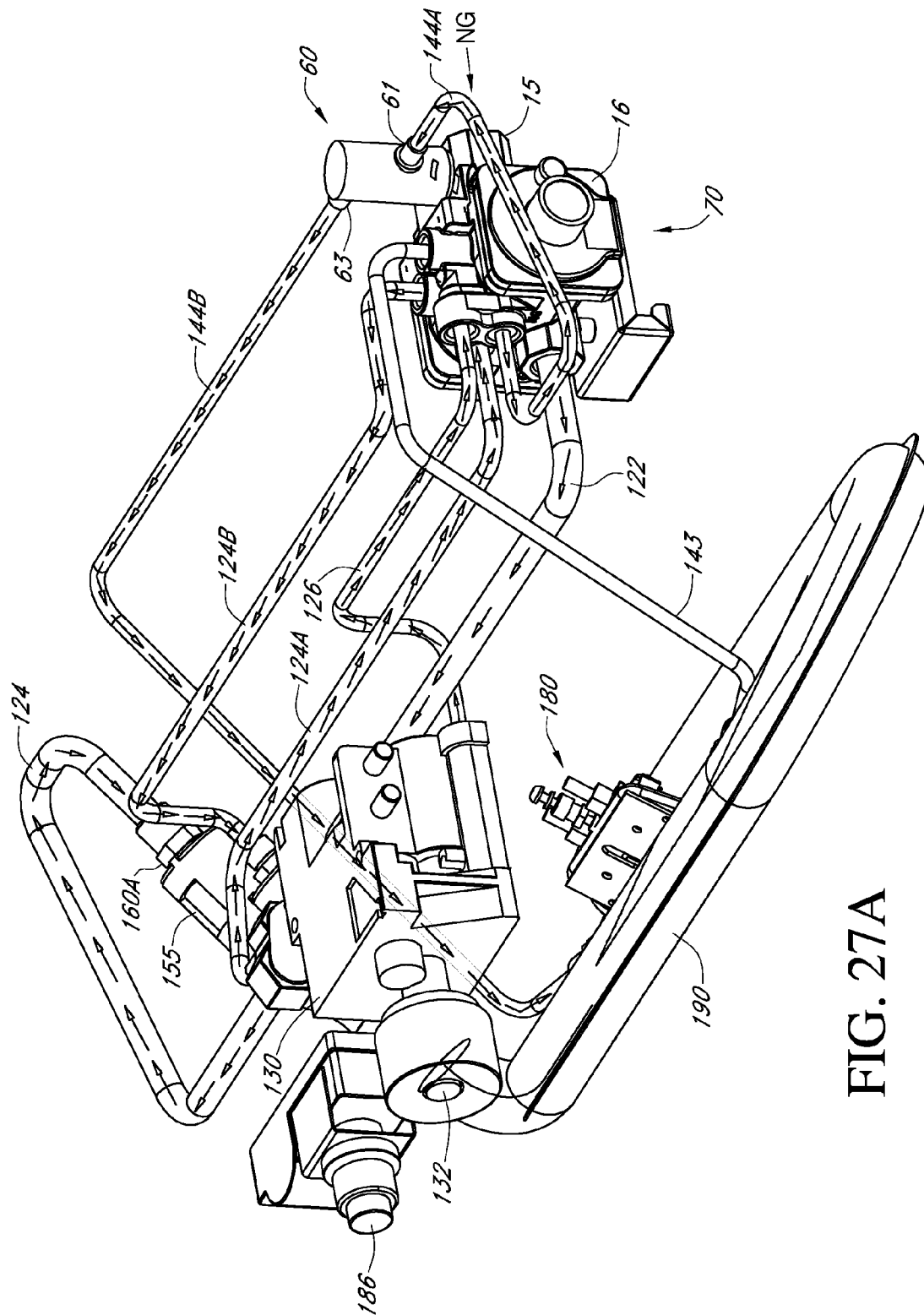


FIG. 27A

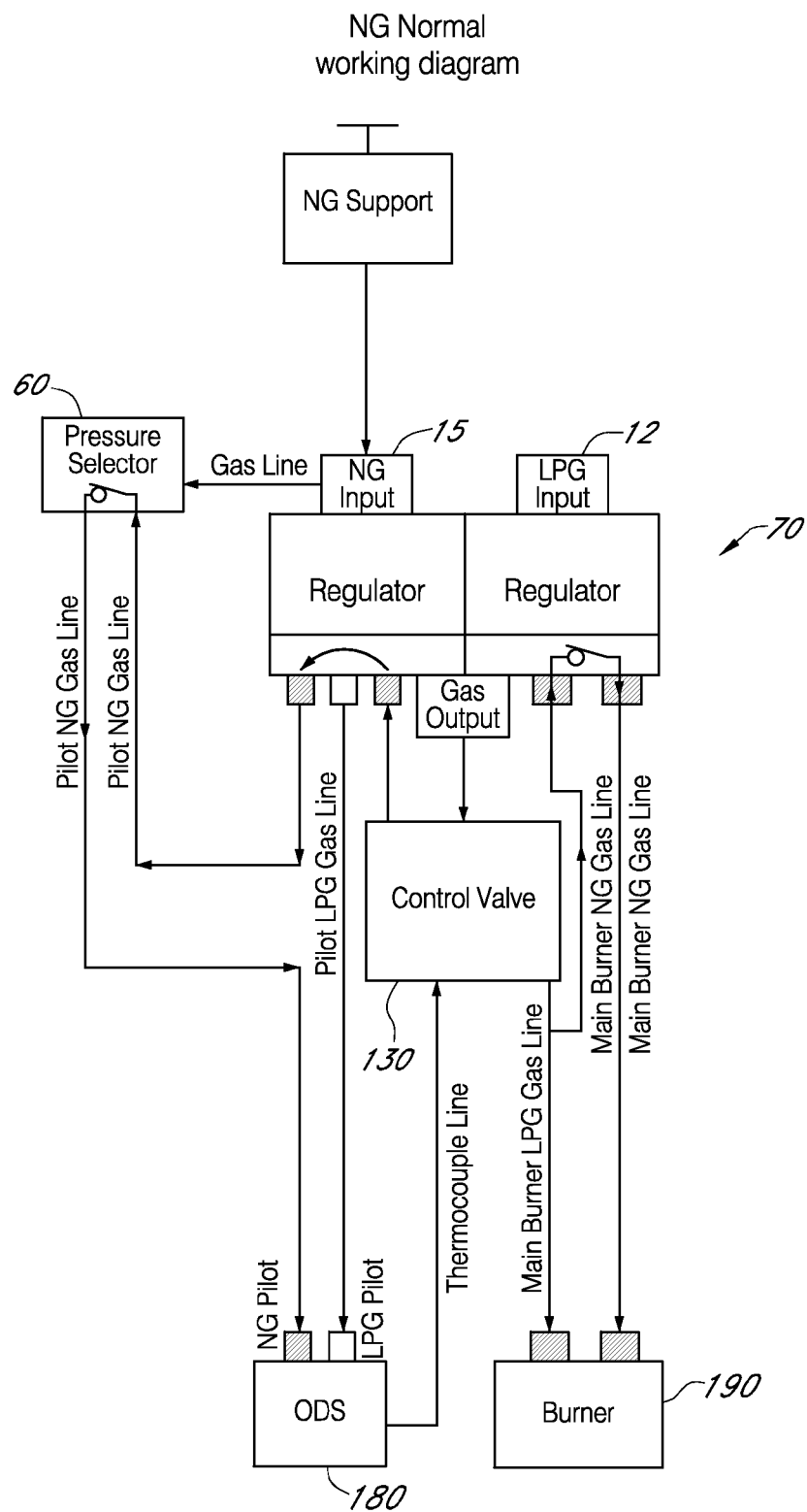


FIG. 27B

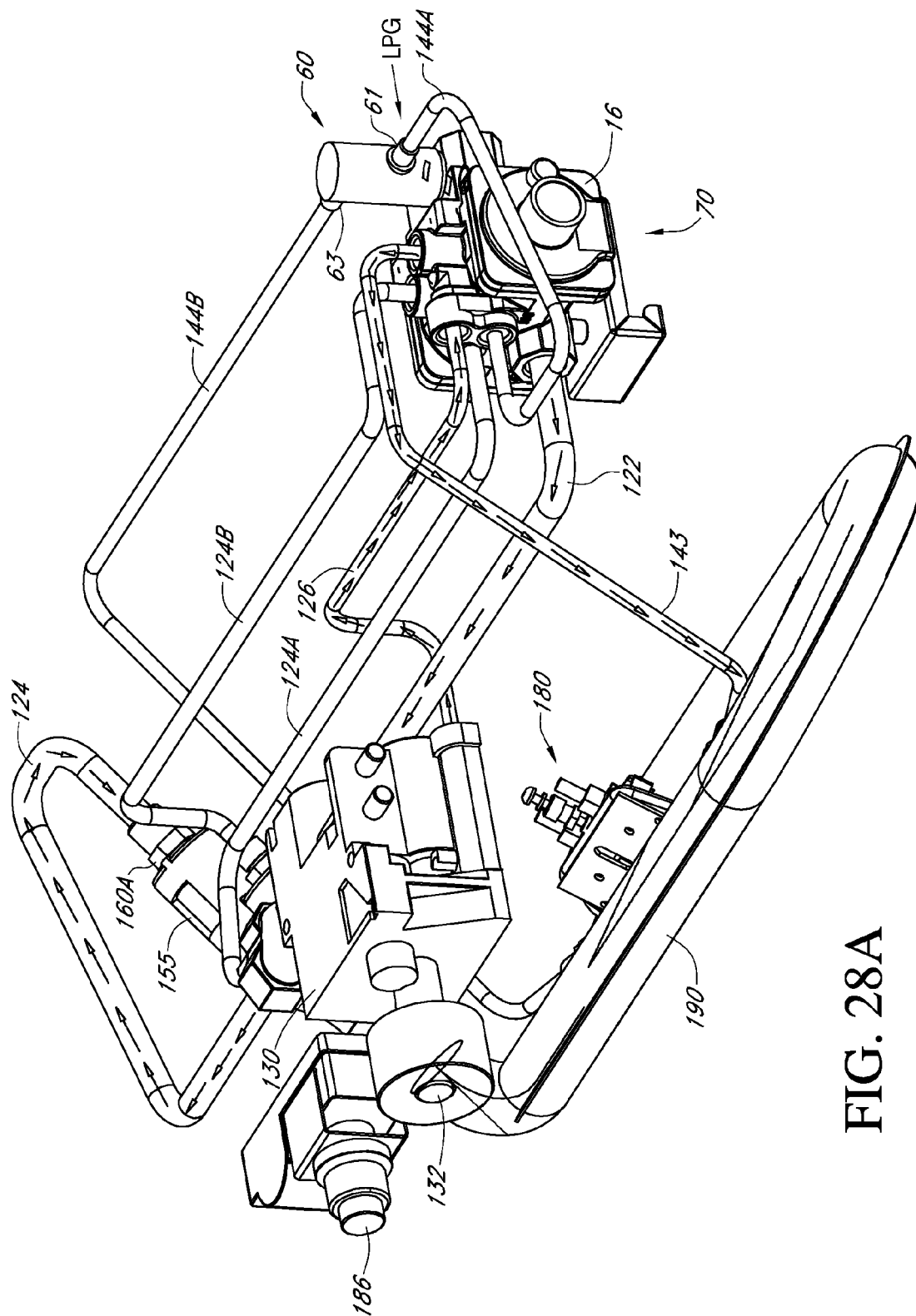


FIG. 28A

LPG Normal
working diagram

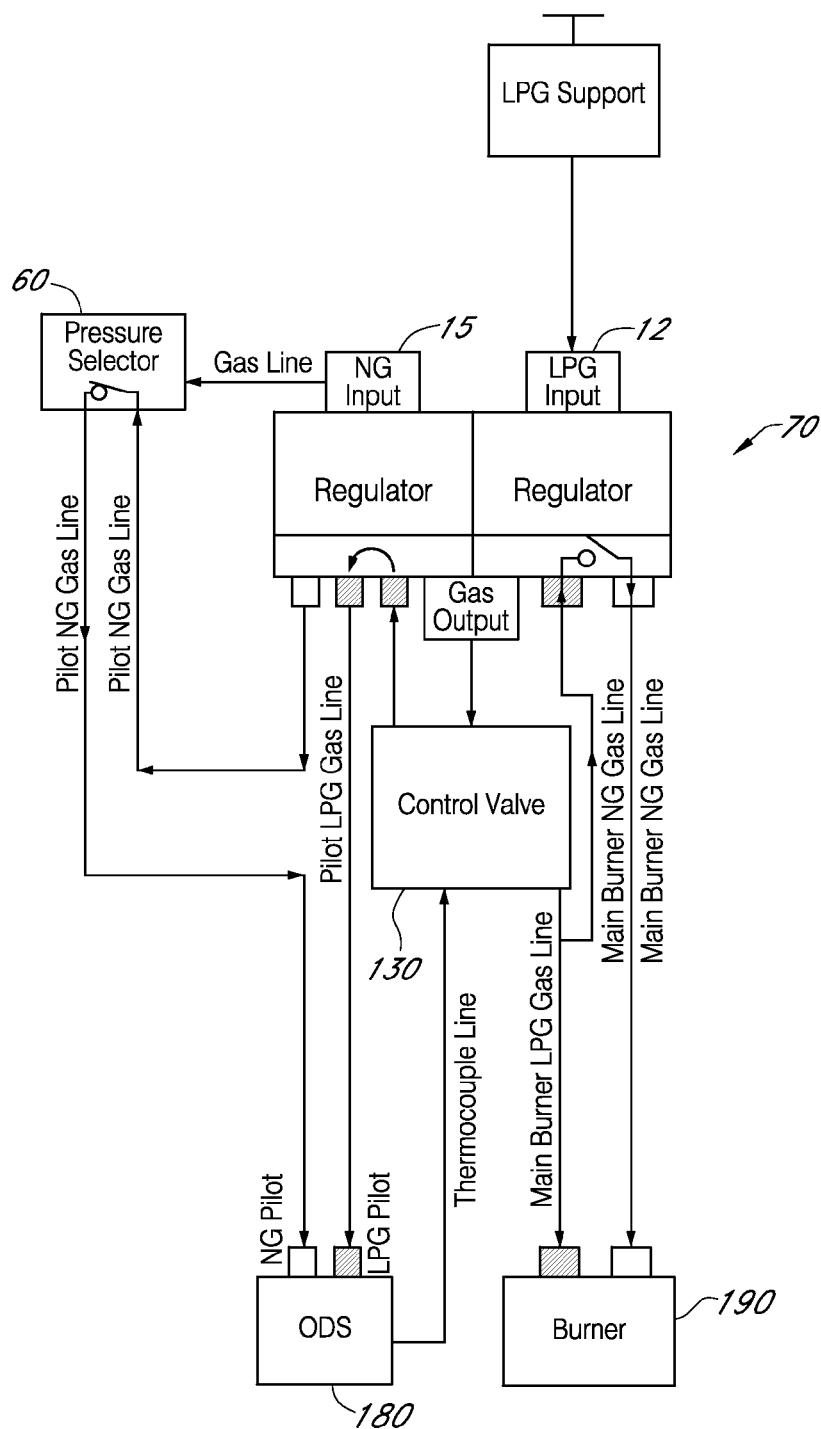


FIG. 28B

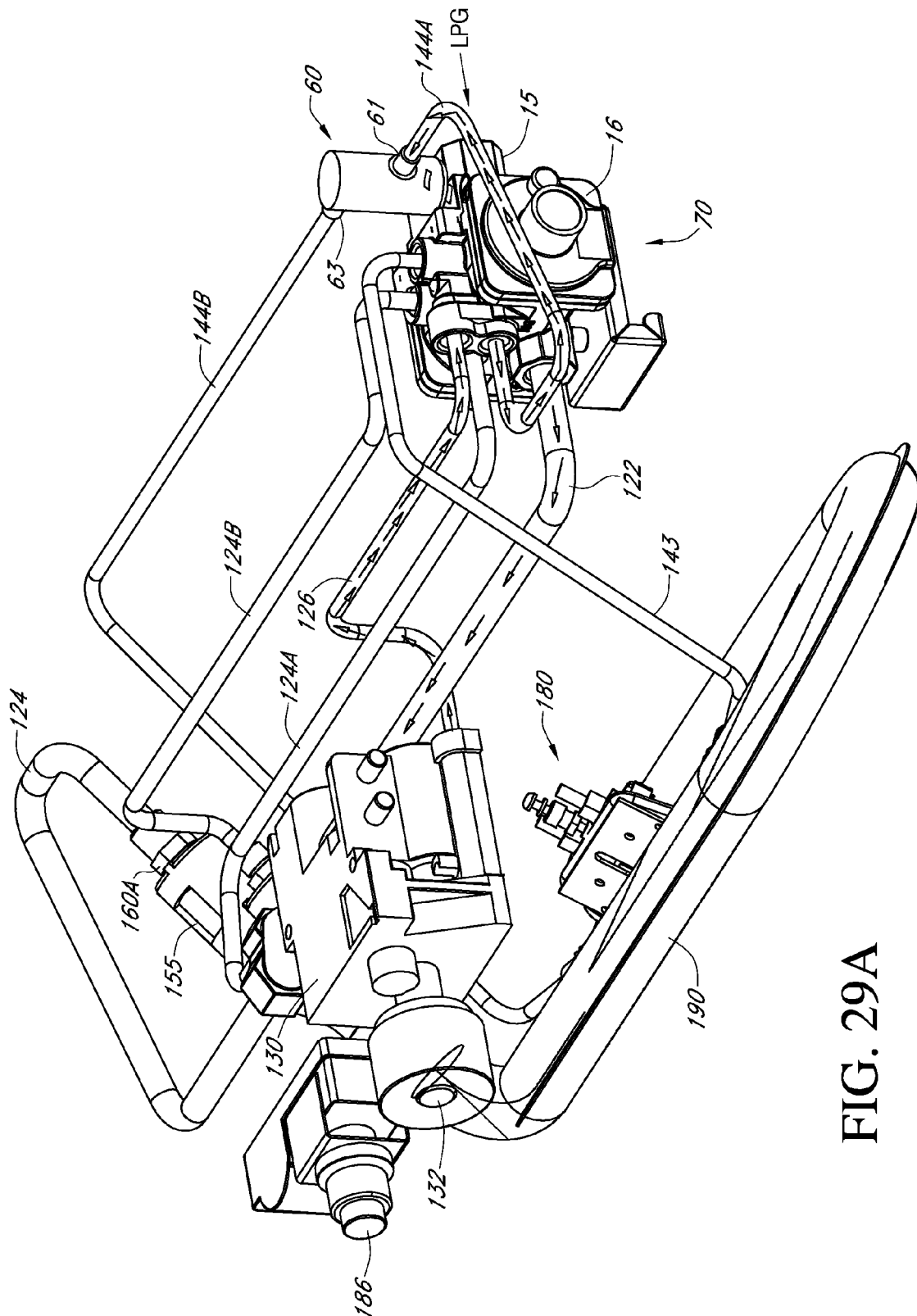


FIG. 29A

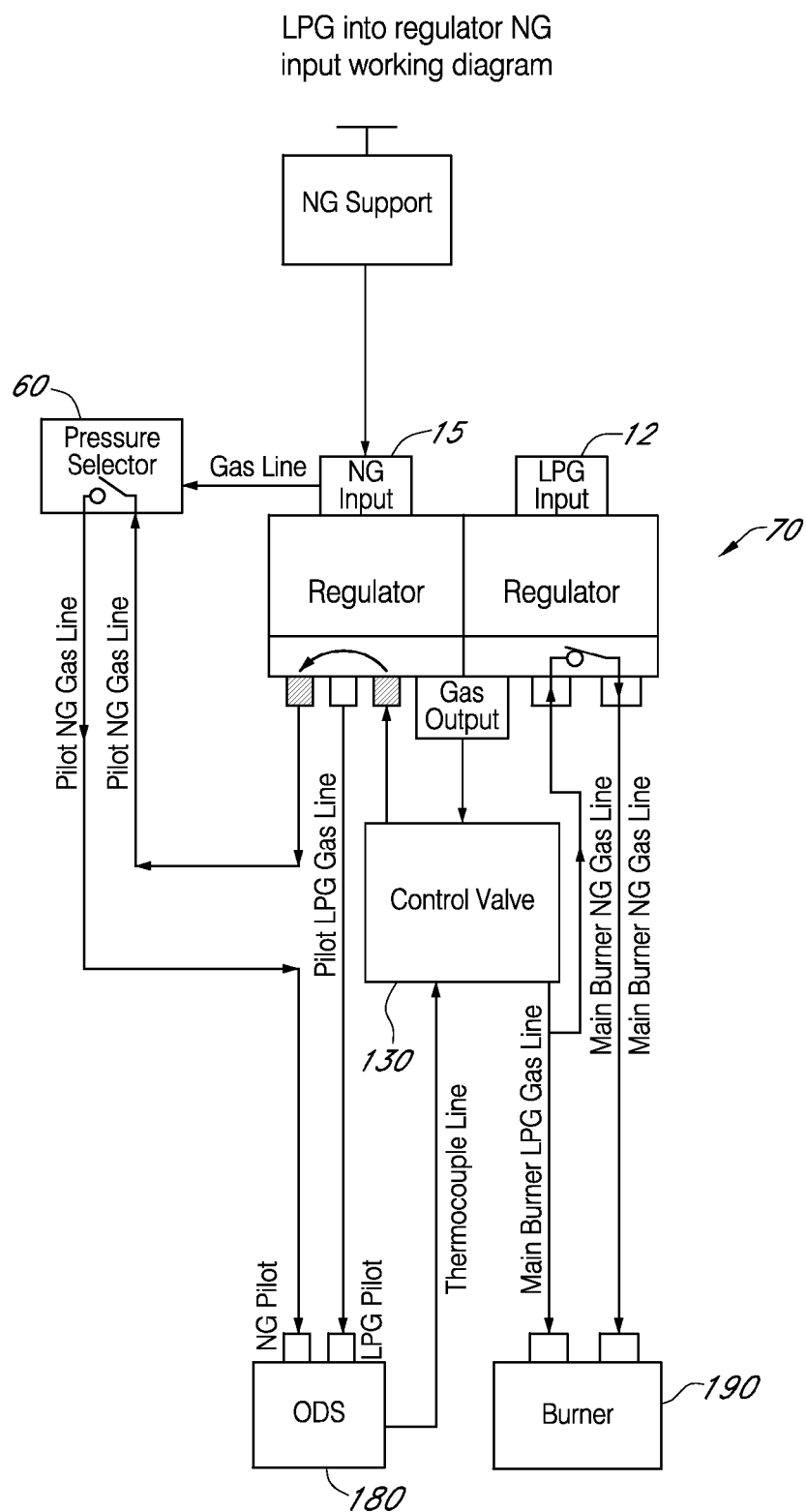


FIG. 29B

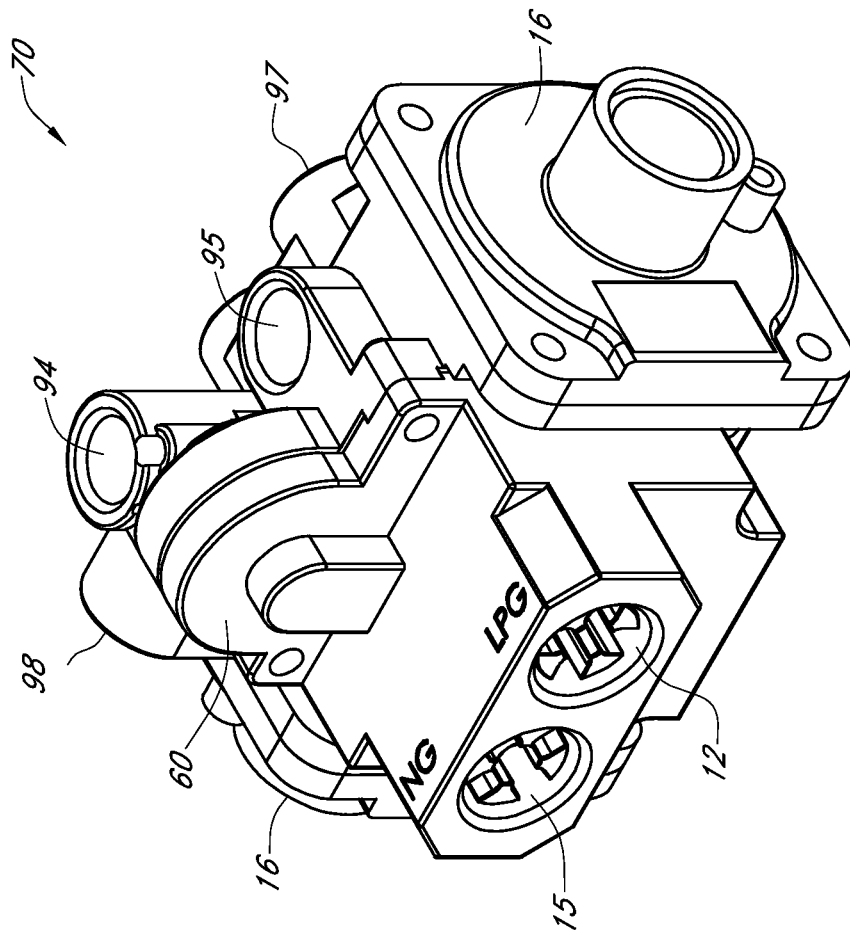


FIG. 30

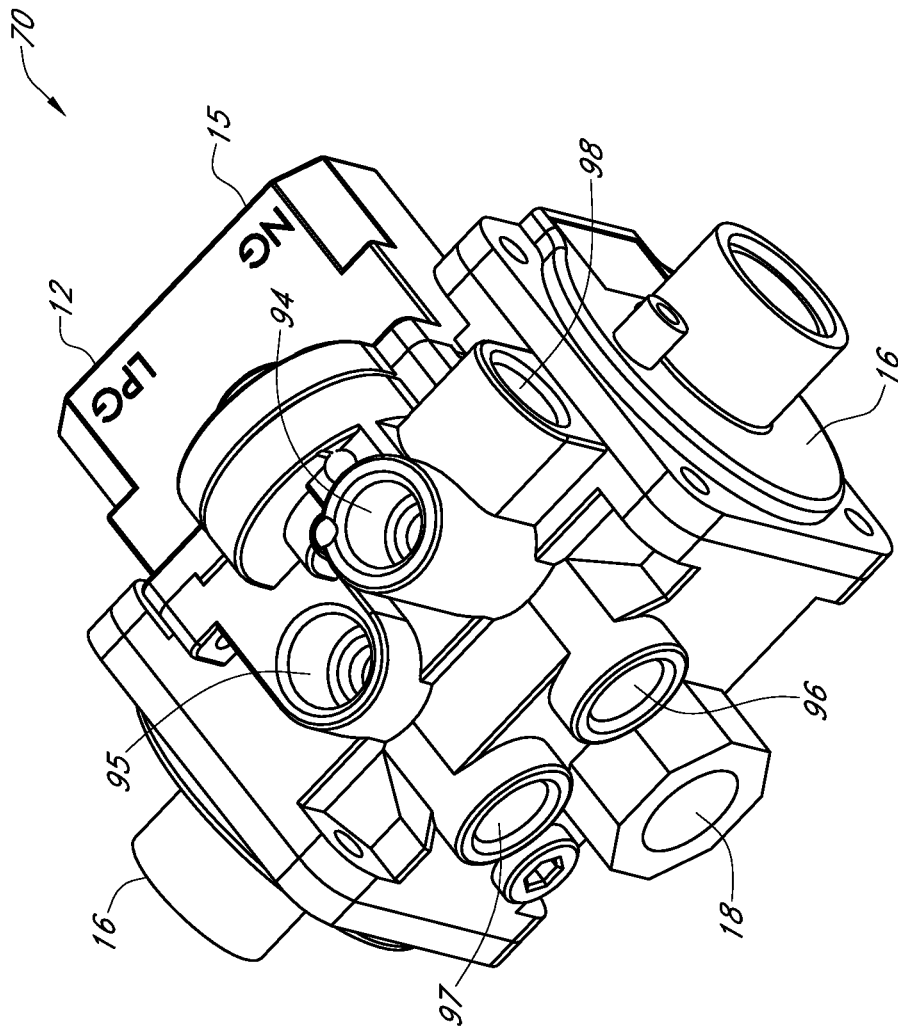


FIG. 31

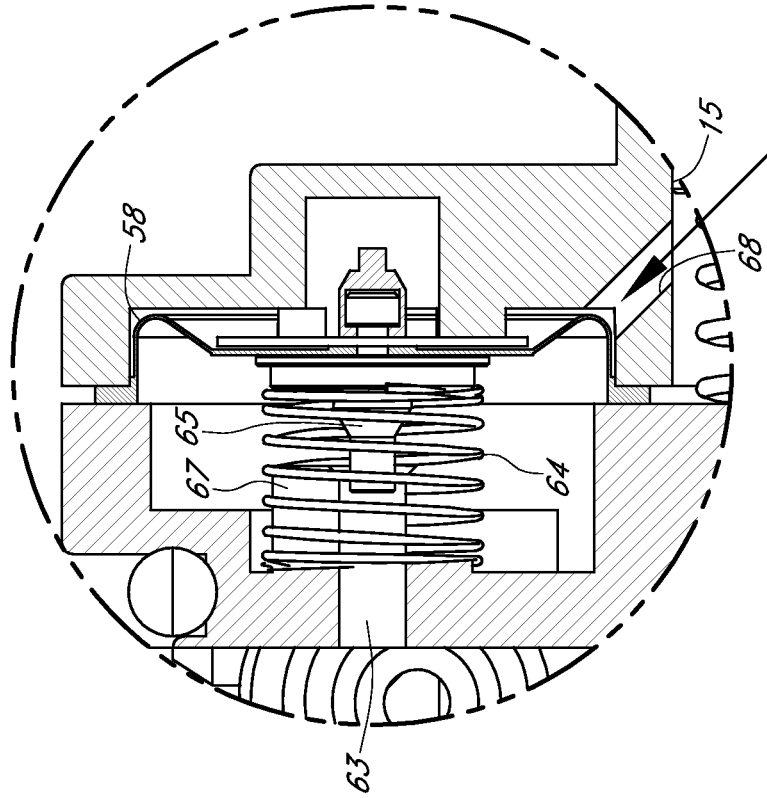


FIG. 32A

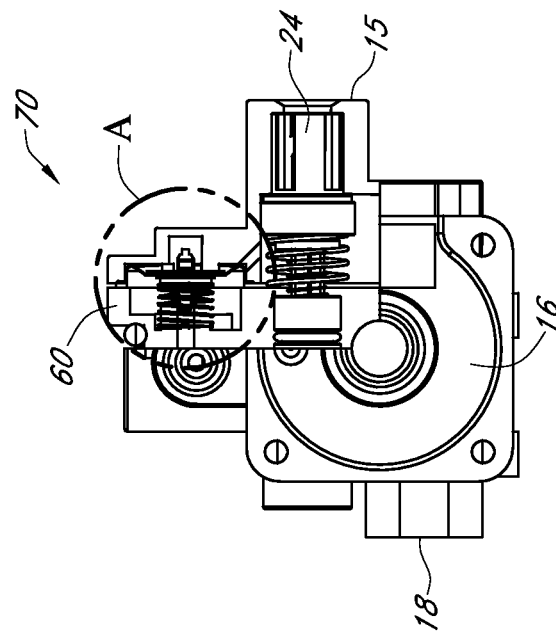


FIG. 32

FIG. 33

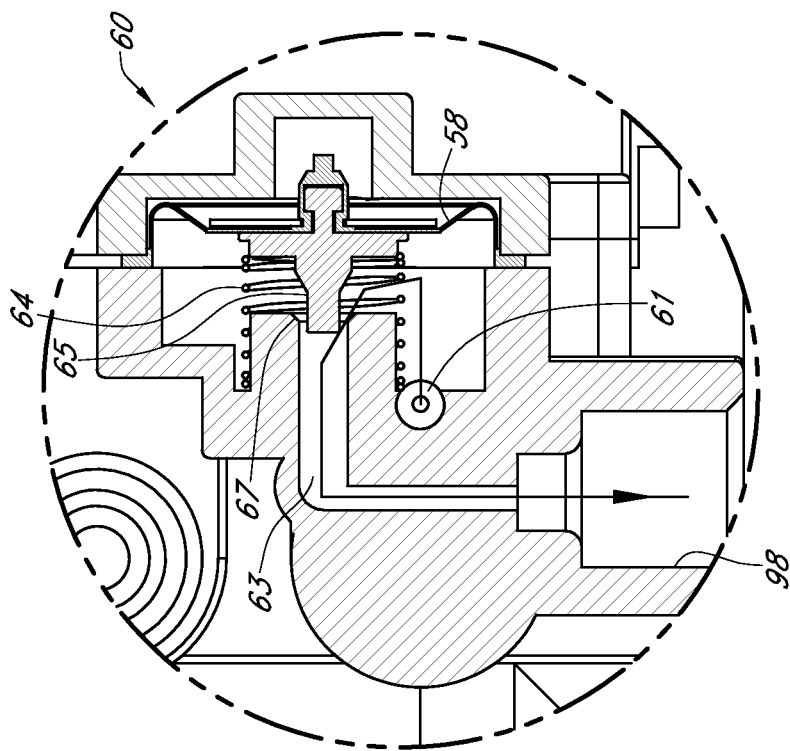


FIG. 33B

SAFETY PRESSURE SWITCH**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to U.S. Patent Appl. Nos. 61/771,795, filed Mar. 2, 2013; 61/773,716, filed Mar. 6, 2013; 61/773,713, filed Mar. 6, 2013; 61/778,072, filed Mar. 12, 2013; and 61/806,344, filed Mar. 28, 2013. The entire contents of the above applications are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this specification. Any and all priority claims identified in the Application Data Sheet, or any correction thereto, are hereby incorporated by reference under 37 CFR 1.57.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

Certain embodiments disclosed herein relate generally to a heating apparatus for use in a gas appliance adapted for single or multiple fuel use. The heating apparatus can be, can be a part of, and can be used in or with many different appliances, including, but not limited to: heaters, boilers, dryers, washing machines, ovens, fireplaces, stoves, water heaters, barbecues, etc.

2. Description of the Related Art

Many varieties of appliances, such as heaters, boilers, dryers, washing machines, ovens, fireplaces, stoves, and other heat-producing devices utilize pressurized, combustible fuels. Some such devices commonly operate with either liquid propane or natural gas. And some such devices may operate on one or more other fuels. However, such devices and certain components thereof have various limitations and disadvantages. Therefore, there exists a constant need for improvement in appliances and components to be used in appliances.

SUMMARY

According to some embodiments a heating system can include any number of different components such as a fuel selector valve, a pressure regulator, a control valve, a burner nozzle, a burner, a pilot, and/or an oxygen depletion sensor. In addition, a heating system can be a single fuel, dual fuel or multi-fuel heating system. For example, the heating system can be configured to be used with one or more of natural gas, liquid propane, well gas, city gas, and methane.

In some embodiments one or more of a safety pilot, a safety oxygen depletion sensor, a safety pressure switch, and a temperature sensor can be used with a heating system. These safety features can be used to stop, or shut off fuel flow through the heating system, and/or prevent fuel from flowing to a burner. In some embodiments, the safety feature can be used to shut off flow through the control valve when an excessive heat threshold or other condition is met. For example, if the wrong fuel is connected to the heating system a temperature or pressure condition can be detected and a signal generated. This signal may be sent to a control valve or a circuit board to close a valve, and/or initiate a stop sequence. In some embodiments the signal may interrupt, reduce, or otherwise change a separate signal, such as for example, a current generated at a thermocouple.

A pressure switch according to some embodiments can comprise a housing having an inlet and defining an internal chamber. A spring and a diaphragm connected to the spring can be positioned within the internal chamber such that fluid entering the inlet acts on the diaphragm. The pressure switch

can also include first and second electrical contacts and a movable contact member. The movable contact member can be connected to the diaphragm such that movement of the diaphragm can cause the movable contact member to movably engage and disengage the first and second electrical contacts. The diaphragm and spring can be configured to move the contact member between engaged and disengaged positions at a set fluid pressure. The movable contact member may be biased to either the engaged or disengaged position.

A heater assembly may include a pressure switch. The heater assembly can also include a burner, a first fuel hookup, a pilot nozzle, a temperature sensor, and a control valve for controlling the flow of fuel to said burner. The pressure switch can communicate with the first fuel hook-up, wherein a fuel at the fuel hookup has a pressure below a threshold, the pressure switch can permit the temperature sensor to electrically connect with the control valve. When the fuel has a pressure above the pressure threshold, the pressure switch can prevent the temperature sensor from electrically connecting with the control valve.

In some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a pressure switch and a thermocouple. The pressure switch can comprise a valve member movable at a predetermined threshold pressure, first and second electrical contacts, and a movable contact member. The movable contact member can be mechanically connected to the valve member and movable therewith. The movable contact member can be configured for electrical connection to the first and second electrical contacts when in a first engaged position and have a second disengaged position configured to create an open circuit. The thermocouple electrically can be coupled to one of the first and second electrical contacts, wherein the heater assembly can be configured so that the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position at a set fluid pressure of fuel in fluid communication with the valve member to create an open circuit with the thermocouple.

According to some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a burner, a pressure regulator unit, a pilot nozzle, a temperature sensor, a control valve, and a pressure switch. The pressure regulator unit can be configured to regulate either a fuel flow of a first fuel type within a first predetermined range or of a second fuel type within a second predetermined range different from the first, the pressure regulator unit comprising a housing having first and second fuel hook-ups, the first fuel hook-up for connecting the first fuel type to the heater assembly and the second hook-up for connecting the second fuel type to the heater assembly. The control valve for controlling the flow of said first type of fuel and the flow of said second type of fuel to said burner. The pressure switch communicating with one of said first and second fuel hook-ups, wherein when fuel has a pressure below a threshold said pressure switch permits said temperature sensor to electrically connect with said control valve and when a fuel has above said pressure threshold said pressure switch prevents said temperature sensor from electrically connecting with said control valve.

A safety pilot according to some embodiments can comprise a first pilot nozzle having an outlet, a first thermocouple and a second thermocouple. The first and second thermocouples can be spaced from the pilot nozzle such that under desired operating conditions, the first thermocouple generates a voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle but the second thermocouple does not. When an incorrect fuel is connected to the safety pilot, the second thermocouple, or both the first and second thermocouples, generates voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The current generated from the second thermocouple can be used to indi-

3

cate an error condition. For example, the current may be sent to a control valve or a circuit board to close a valve, and/or initiate a stop sequence. In some embodiments the signal may interrupt, reduce, or otherwise change a separate signal, such as for example, the current generated by the first thermocouple.

In some embodiments a safety pilot can comprise a first pilot nozzle having an outlet, a first thermocouple and a second thermocouple. The first thermocouple can be positioned a first distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said first thermocouple comprising a first anode and a first cathode and configured to generate voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The second thermocouple can be positioned a second distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said second thermocouple comprising a second anode and a second cathode and configured to generate voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The second cathode can be in electrical contact with said first anode, said second anode being in electrical contact with said first cathode, such that when a single thermocouple is heated in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle a first current is generated by the safety pilot and when both the first and the second thermocouples are heated in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle, two currents are generated which combine to generate a second current that is less than the first current.

According to some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a first pilot nozzle having an outlet, a first thermocouple, a second thermocouple, and an electrically responsive valve in electrical communication with said first thermocouple and said second thermocouple. The first thermocouple can be positioned a first distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said first thermocouple generating voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The second thermocouple can be positioned a second distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said second thermocouple generating voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The first thermocouple can be in electrical contact with said second thermocouple. The electrically responsive valve can be configured such that (1) said valve is closed when insufficient signal is generated by said first thermocouple and no significant signal is generated by said second thermocouple; (2) said valve opens in response to a first signal level from said first thermocouple when no or insufficient signal is generated by said second thermocouple and (3) said valve closes in response to said first signal level from said first thermocouple and a sufficient signal level from said second thermocouple.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects and advantages are described below with reference to the drawings, which are intended to illustrate but not to limit the invention. In the drawings, like reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout similar embodiments.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a heating device.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a fuel delivery system compatible with the heating device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a perspective cutaway view of a portion of one embodiment of a heater configured to operate using either a first fuel source or a second fuel source.

FIG. 4 is a partially disassembled perspective view of the heater of FIG. 3.

FIGS. 5 and 6 show a pilot assembly in use with a first fuel and a second fuel respectively.

4

FIGS. 7 and 8 show a dual fuel pilot assembly in use with a first fuel and a second fuel respectively.

FIG. 9 schematically represents an electric circuit between the control valve and two thermocouples.

FIG. 10 is a schematic representation of another embodiment of heating system.

FIG. 10A is a schematic representation of another embodiment of heating system.

FIG. 11 is a chart showing typical gas pressures of different fuels.

FIG. 12 shows a cross-sectional view of a pressure switch.

FIG. 13 illustrates a heating unit with a pressure switch.

FIG. 14 shows a heater including the heating unit of FIG. 13.

FIG. 14A shows a schematic detail view of a portion of the heater of FIG. 14.

FIG. 15 shows a schematic diagram of the function of the heater of FIG. 14.

FIG. 16 shows a schematic diagram of the function of another embodiment of heater.

FIGS. 17 and 17A show another embodiment of heating source.

FIG. 18 is a cross-section taken along line C-C of FIG. 17A.

FIG. 19 is a cross-section taken along line B-B of FIG. 17A.

FIG. 20 is the cross-section of FIG. 18 shown with a fitting.

FIG. 21 is the cross-section of FIG. 19 shown with a fitting.

FIG. 22 shows another embodiment of a heating source.

FIG. 23 shows a top view of the heating source of FIG. 22.

FIG. 24A is a cross-section taken along the line 24A-24A of FIG. 23.

FIG. 24B is a cross-section taken along the line 24B-24B of FIG. 23.

FIG. 25A show a perspective view partially in cross-section of another embodiment of pressure switch.

FIG. 25B is a side cross-sectional view of the pressure switch of FIG. 25A.

FIG. 26 shows a heater.

FIGS. 27A, 28A and 29A show partially disassembled views of the heater of FIG. 26 illustrating different flow configurations.

FIGS. 27B, 28B and 29B respectively show a schematic diagram of the flow configuration of one of FIGS. 27A, 28A and 29A.

FIGS. 30 and 31 show perspective views of another embodiment of heating source.

FIG. 32 is a side view of the heating source of FIG. 30 in partial cross-section.

FIG. 32A is a detail view of the heating source from circle A in FIG. 32.

FIG. 33 is a side view of the heating source of FIG. 30.

FIG. 33A is a top view of the heating source with a partial cross-section taken along line B-B of FIG. 33.

FIG. 33B is a detail view of the heating source from the partial cross-section of FIG. 33A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Many varieties of appliances, such as heaters, boilers, dryers, washing machines, ovens, fireplaces, stoves, and other heat-producing devices utilize pressurized, combustible fuels. For example, many varieties of space heaters, fireplaces, stoves, ovens, boilers, fireplace inserts, gas logs, and other heat-producing devices employ combustible fuels, such as liquid propane and/or natural gas. These devices generally are designed to operate with a single fuel type at a specific

5

pressure. For example, as one having skill in the art would appreciate, some gas heaters that are configured to be installed on a wall or a floor operate with natural gas at a pressure in a range from about 3 inches of water column to about 6 inches of water column, while others operate with liquid propane at a pressure in a range from about 8 inches of water column to about 12 inches of water column.

Although certain embodiments discussed herein are described in the context of directly vented heating units, such as fireplaces and fireplace inserts, or vent-free heating systems, it should be understood that certain features, principles, and/or advantages described are applicable in a much wider variety of contexts, including, for example, gas logs, heaters, heating stoves, cooking stoves, barbecue grills, water heaters, and any flame-producing and/or heat-producing fluid-fueled unit, including without limitation units that include a burner of any suitable variety.

FIG. 1 illustrates an embodiment of a fireplace, fireplace insert, heat-generating unit, or heating device **10** configured to operate with a source of combustible fuel. In various embodiments, the heating device **10** is configured to be installed within a suitable cavity, such as the firebox of a fireplace or a dedicated outer casing. The heating device **10** can extend through a wall, in some embodiments.

The heating device **10** includes a housing **20**. The housing **20** can include metal or some other suitable material for providing structure to the heating device **10** without melting or otherwise deforming in a heated environment. The housing **20** can define a window **220**. In some embodiments, the window **220** comprises a sheet of substantially clear material, such as tempered glass, that is substantially impervious to heated air but substantially transmissive to radiant energy.

The heating device **10** can include a sealed chamber **14**. The sealed chamber **14** can be sealed to the outside with the exception of the air intake **240** and the exhaust **260**. Heated air does not flow from the sealed chamber to the surroundings; instead air, for example from in an interior room, can enter an inlet vent into the housing **20**. The air can pass through the housing in a channel passing over the outside of the sealed chamber **14** and over the exhaust **260**. Heat can be transferred to the air which can then pass into the interior room through an outlet vent.

In some embodiments, the heating device **10** includes a grill, rack, or grate **280**. The grate **280** can provide a surface against which artificial logs may rest, and can resemble similar structures used in wood-burning fireplaces. In certain embodiments, the housing **20** defines one or more mounting flanges **300** used to secure the heating device **10** to a floor and/or one or more walls. The mounting flanges **300** can include apertures **320** through which mounting hardware can be advanced. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the housing **20** can be installed in a relatively fixed fashion within a building or other structure.

As shown, the heating device **10** includes a fuel delivery system **40**, which can have portions for accepting fuel from a fuel source, for directing flow of fuel within the heating device **10**, and for combusting fuel. In the illustrated embodiment, portions of an embodiment of the fuel delivery system **40** that would be obscured by the heating device **10** are shown in phantom. Specifically, the illustrated heating device **10** includes a floor **50** which forms the bottom of the sealed combustion chamber **14** and the components shown in phantom are positioned beneath the floor **50**.

With reference to FIG. 2, an example of a fuel delivery system **40** is shown. The fuel delivery system **40** can include a regulator **120**. The regulator **120** can be configured to selectively receive a fluid fuel (e.g., propane or natural gas) from a

6

source at a certain pressure. In certain embodiments, the regulator **120** includes an input port **121** for receiving the fuel. The regulator **120** can define an output port **123** through which fuel exits the regulator **120**. Accordingly, in many embodiments, the regulator **120** is configured to operate in a state in which fuel is received via the input port **121** and delivered to the output port **123**. In certain embodiments, the regulator **120** is configured to regulate fuel entering the port **121** such that fuel exiting the output port **123** is at a relatively steady pressure. The regulator **120** can function in ways similar to the pressure regulators disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/443,484, filed May 30, 2006, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,607,426, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part of this specification.

The output port **123** of the regulator **120** can be coupled with a source line or channel **125**. The source line **125**, and any other fluid line described herein, can comprise piping, tubing, conduit, or any other suitable structure adapted to direct or channel fuel along a flow path. In some embodiments, the source line **125** is coupled with the output port **123** at one end and is coupled with a control valve **130** at another end. The source line **125** can thus provide fluid communication between the regulator **120** and the control valve **130**.

The control valve **130** can be configured to regulate the amount of fuel delivered to portions of the fuel delivery system **40**. Various configurations of the control valve **130** are possible, including those known in the art as well as those yet to be devised. In some embodiments, the control valve **130** includes a millivolt valve. The control valve **130** can comprise a first knob or dial **131** and a second dial **132**. In some embodiments, the first dial **131** can be rotated to adjust the amount of fuel delivered to a burner **190**, and the second dial **132** can be rotated to adjust a setting of a thermostat. In other embodiments, the control valve **130** comprises a single dial **131**.

In many embodiments, the control valve **130** is coupled with a burner transport line or channel **124** and a pilot transport or delivery line **126**. The burner transport line **124** can be coupled with a nozzle assembly **160** which can be further coupled with a burner delivery line **148**. The nozzle assembly **160** can be configured to direct fuel received from the burner transport line **132** to the burner delivery line or channel **148**.

The pilot delivery line **126** is coupled with a pilot **180**. Fuel delivered to the pilot **180** can be combusted to form a pilot flame, which can serve to ignite fuel delivered to the burner **190** and/or serve as a safety control feedback mechanism that can cause the control valve **130** to shut off delivery of fuel to the fuel delivery system **40**. Additionally, in some embodiments, the pilot **180** is configured to provide power to the control valve **130**. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the pilot **180** is coupled with the control valve **130** by one or more of a feedback line **182** and a power line **183**.

The pilot **180** can comprise an igniter or an electrode configured to ignite fuel delivered to the pilot **180** via the pilot delivery line **126**. Accordingly, the pilot **180** can be coupled with an igniter line **184**, which can be connected to an igniter actuator, button, or switch **186**. In some embodiments, the igniter switch **186** is mounted to the control valve **130**. In other embodiments, the igniter switch **186** is mounted to the housing **20** of the heating device **10**. The pilot **180** can also comprise a thermocouple. Any of the lines **182**, **183**, **184** can comprise any suitable medium for communicating an electrical quantity, such as a voltage or an electrical current. For example, in some embodiments, one or more of the lines **182**, **183**, **184** comprise a metal wire.

Furthermore, as discussed below, when a pilot light heats the thermocouple a current is generated in the thermocouple. In certain embodiments, this current produces a magnetic field within the control valve **130** that maintains the valve **130** in an open position. If the pilot light goes out or is disturbed, and the current flow is reduced or terminated, the magnetic field weakens or is eliminated, and the valve **130** closes, thereby preventing passage of fuel.

The pilot **180** may also be an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) **180**. In various embodiments, the ODS **180** provides a steady pilot flame that heats the thermocouple unless the oxygen level in the ambient air drops below a threshold level. In certain embodiments, the threshold oxygen level is between about 18 percent and about 18.5 percent. In some embodiments, when the oxygen level drops below the threshold level, the pilot flame moves away from the thermocouple, the thermocouple cools, and the heat control valve **130** closes, thereby cutting off the fuel supply to the heater **10**. It will be understood that most all references to pilot and pilot assembly also refer to an ODS.

The burner delivery line **148** is situated to receive fuel from the nozzle assembly **160**, and can be connected to the burner **190**. The burner **190** can comprise any suitable burner, such as, for example, a ceramic tile burner or a blue flame burner, and is preferably configured to continuously combust fuel delivered via the burner delivery line **148**.

The flow of fuel through the fuel delivery system **40**, as shown, will now be described. A fuel is introduced into the fuel delivery system **40** through the regulator **120** which then proceeds from the regulator **120** through the source line or channel **125** to the control valve **130**. The control valve **130** can permit a portion of the fuel to flow into the burner transport line or channel **132**, and can permit another portion of the fuel to flow into the pilot transport line or channel **126**. The fuel flow in the burner transport line **132** can proceed to the nozzle assembly **160**. The nozzle assembly **160** can direct fuel from the burner transport line or channel **132** into the burner delivery line or channel **148**. In some embodiments, fuel flows through the pilot delivery line or channel **126** to the pilot **180**, where it is combusted. In some embodiments, fuel flows through the burner delivery line or channel **148** to the burner **190**, where it is combusted.

An air shutter **150** can also be along the burner delivery line **148**. The air shutter **150** can be used to introduce air into the flow of fuel prior to combustion at the burner **190**. This can create a mixing chamber **157** where air and fuel is mixed together prior to passing through the burner delivery line **148** to the burner **190**. The amount of air that is needed to be introduced can depend on the type of fuel used. For example, propane gas at typical pressures needs more air than natural gas to produce a flame of the same size.

The air shutter **150** can be adjusted by increasing or decreasing the size of a window **155**. The window **155** can be configured to allow air to pass into and mix with fuel in the burner delivery line **148**.

FIGS. **3** and **4** show an embodiment of a dual fuel heater **100**. The heater can be made for use with two different fuels, where in a first setting the heater is set to use the first fuel and in a second setting the heater is set to use the second fuel. The heater **100** can be configured such that the installer of the gas appliance can connect the assembly to one of two fuels, such as either a supply of natural gas (NG) or a supply of propane (LP) and the assembly will desirably operate in the standard mode (with respect to efficiency and flame size and color) for either gas. The heater **100** can be, for example, a vent-free infrared heater or a vent-free blue flame heater. Other configurations are also possible for the heater **100**.

Though the heater **100** is configured for dual fuel use, the heater can include many of the same types of components as the heater **10** as will be understood by review of the below description. It will be understood that like reference characters or terminology denote corresponding features, but this does not require that the components be identical in all aspects.

The heater **100** can comprise a housing **200**. In the illustrated embodiment, the housing **200** comprises a window **220**, one or more intake vents **240** and one or more outlet vents **260**. Heated air and/or radiant energy can pass through the window **220**. Air can flow into the heater **100** through the one or more intake vents **240** and heated air can flow out of the heater **100** through the outlet vents **260**.

With reference to FIG. **4**, in certain embodiments, the heater **100** includes a regulator **120**. The regulator **120** can be coupled with source line **125**. The source line **125** can be coupled with a heater control valve **130**, which, in some embodiments, includes a knob **132**. As illustrated, the heater control valve **130** is coupled to a fuel supply pipe **124** and an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) pipe **126**, each of which can be coupled with a fluid flow controller **140**. The fluid flow controller **140** can be coupled with a first nozzle line **141**, a second nozzle line **142**, a first ODS line **143**, and a second ODS line **144**. In some embodiments, the first and the second nozzle lines **141**, **142** are coupled with a nozzle **160**, and the first and the second ODS lines **143**, **144** are coupled with an ODS **180**. In some embodiments, the ODS comprises a thermocouple **182**, which can be coupled with the heater control valve **130**, and an igniter line **184**, which can be coupled with an igniter switch **186**. Each of the pipes **125**, **124**, and **126** and the lines **141**-**144** can define a fluid passageway or flow channel through which a fluid can move or flow.

In some embodiments, including the illustrated embodiment, the heater **100** comprises a burner **190**. The ODS **180** can be mounted to the burner **190**, as shown. The nozzle **160** can be positioned to discharge a fluid, which may be a gas, liquid, or combination thereof into the burner **190**. For purposes of brevity, recitation of the term "gas or liquid" hereafter shall also include the possibility of a combination of a gas and a liquid. In addition, as used herein, the term "fluid" is a broad term used in its ordinary sense, and includes materials or substances capable of fluid flow, such as gases, liquids, and combinations thereof.

Where the heater **100** is a dual fuel heater, either a first or a second fluid is introduced into the heater **100** through the regulator **120**. Still referring to FIG. **4**, the first or the second fluid proceeds from the regulator **120** through the source line **125** to the heater control valve **130**. The heater control valve **130** can permit a portion of the first or the second fluid to flow into the fuel supply pipe **124** and permit another portion of the first or the second fluid to flow into the ODS pipe **126**. From the heater control valve **130**, the first or the second fluid can proceed to the fluid flow controller **140**. In many embodiments, the fluid flow controller **140** is configured to channel the respective portions of the first fluid from the fuel supply pipe **124** to the first nozzle line **141** and from the ODS pipe **126** to the first ODS line **143** when the fluid flow controller **140** is in a first state, and is configured to channel the respective portions of the second fluid from the fuel supply pipe **124** to the second nozzle line **142** and from the ODS pipe **126** to the second ODS line **144** when the fluid flow controller **140** is in a second state.

In certain embodiments, when the fluid flow controller **140** is in the first state, a portion of the first fluid proceeds through the first nozzle line **141**, through the nozzle **160** and is delivered to the burner **190**, and a portion of the first fluid proceeds

through the first ODS line **143** to the ODS **180**. Similarly, when the fluid flow controller **140** is in the second state, a portion of the second fluid proceeds through the nozzle **160** and another portion proceeds to the ODS **180**. Other configurations are also possible. The heater **100** and components thereof can be further understood with reference to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/443,484, filed May 30, 2006, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,607,426, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein and made a part of this specification.

With reference now to FIGS. 5-6, a pilot assembly **180** will now be discussed. The pilot assembly **180** can be used in conjunction with either of the heaters **10**, **100** discussed above, as well as, with other embodiments of heating devices. Fuel delivered to the pilot **180** can be combusted to form a pilot light or flame **800**. When the pilot light **800** heats the thermocouple **182** a current is generated in the thermocouple. This current is used in some heaters to generate a magnetic field within the control valve **130** to maintain the valve **130** in an open position.

In operation, the pilot assembly generally first needs to be proved before fuel can flow to the burner nozzle **160** and then on to the burner **190**. Proving the pilot is generally the initial step in turning on the heater. As has been discussed, the pilot **180** has a thermocouple **182** that generates an electric current when heated to hold open the control valve **130**. If the thermocouple is not hot enough there won't be enough current generated to keep the control valve open. Generally speaking, when the control valve is in a pilot position, the control valve is also being held in an open position to allow flow to the pilot **180**, but not to the burner nozzle **160**. When the control valve is moved from the pilot position to a heating position, the control valve is no longer held open but requires the electric current from the thermocouple to hold the valve open. Thus, if there is not yet enough heat and the control valve were adjusted from the pilot position to the heating position, i.e. by turning the knob **132**, the control valve will close and fuel will not be able to flow to the burner. And in fact, most control valves will not allow the user to rotate the knob, or change the position of the control to a heating condition, until after the pilot has been proven.

Once lit, if the pilot light **800** goes out or is disturbed, and the current flow is reduced or terminated, the magnetic field weakens or is eliminated, and the valve **130** closes, thereby preventing further flow of fuel. So with the control valve in a heating position, the pilot ensures that if the flame goes out, uncombusted fuel will not continue to flow into the room or space where the heating assembly is located. In this way the pilot can prevent a potential safety hazard, such as an explosion.

If the pilot assembly is also an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) **180**, then the ODS can cause the control valve **130** to close when the oxygen level drops below a certain threshold. For example, the threshold oxygen level can be between about 18 percent and about 18.5 percent. As the oxygen level changes the pilot light **800** moves with respect to the thermocouple **182**. When the oxygen level drops below the threshold level, the pilot flame **800** moves away from the thermocouple **182**, the thermocouple **182** cools, and the control valve **130** closes, thereby cutting off the fuel supply to the heater **10**, **100**.

The illustrated pilot assembly **180** can also be used to shut off flow through the control valve **130** when an excessive heat threshold or other condition is met. For example, if the wrong fuel is connected to the heater **10**, **100** depending on the fuel, a large flame **800B** such as that shown in FIG. 6 may be

produced. It will be understood that this wrong fuel could also provide an undesirably large flame at the burner **190** creating a potential safety hazard.

The pilot assembly **180** can be configured to prevent the heater **10**, **100** from starting if the wrong fuel is connected to the heater, or if an excessive temperature condition is experienced at the pilot **180**. In some embodiments, a temperature sensor, such as second thermocouple **810** can be used to detect an excessive temperature condition and/or the connection of the wrong fuel. A signal can be sent to the control valve **130** or to a printed circuit board, or the signal from the first thermocouple **182** can be interrupted, to thereby close the control valve or to activate some other shut off feature. In some embodiments, this can be done before fuel is permitted to flow to the burner nozzle **160**, or before the pilot has been fully proven. For example, the heating assembly can be configured to detect an undesired condition while the pilot is being proven and before the fuel can flow to the burner nozzle **160**. This can beneficially prevent a potential safety hazard.

As one example, if the heater is a natural gas heater the pilot assembly can be configured for use with natural gas. The pilot flame **800A** shown in FIG. 5 can represent the normal flame size when the pilot assembly is used with natural gas. As can be seen, the thermocouple **182** is not only adjacent the flame **800A** but is actually within and surrounded by it. In this condition, the flame **800A** would heat thermocouple **182** to generate an electric current to hold open the control valve **130**. But, it can also be seen that the flame **800A** is spaced away from the second thermocouple **810**. In this condition the flame **800A** would not provide sufficient heating to the second thermocouple to exceed the set threshold.

Thus, in this condition, the first thermocouple **182** can be heated sufficiently to prove the pilot, thereafter allowing flow to the burner nozzle when the heater is changed from the pilot position to a heating position. But the second thermocouple is not heated sufficient to generate a closing signal to the control valve, or to interrupt the current from the first thermocouple **182**. The first thermocouple can be spaced a first distance from the nozzle. The second thermocouple can be spaced a second distance from the nozzle. Preferably, the second distance is greater than the first distance, but in some embodiments the distances may be the same, or the second distance may be less than the first distance.

In FIG. 6 it can be seen that large flame **800B** contacts and surrounds both the first and second thermocouples **182**, **810**. Where the pilot assembly **180** is configured for use with natural gas, this can be the condition when liquid propane is passed into the pilot assembly. The sensed temperature at the second thermocouple can exceed the set threshold to cause the control valve to close as will be described in more detail below.

As shown, the pilot assembly **180** comprises a first thermocouple **182**, a nozzle **801**, and an electrode **808**, and a second thermocouple **810**. It will be understood that other temperature sensors and devices could be used instead of, or in addition to, one or both of the thermocouples, such as a thermopile. The pilot assembly **180** can include a frame **820** for positioning the constituent parts of the pilot assembly. The nozzle **801** can include an injector **811** to be coupled with the line **143** (see FIGS. 1-4), an air inlet **821**, and an outlet **803**.

In many embodiments, the injector is a standard injector as are known in the art, such as an injector that can be utilized with liquid propane or natural gas. Thus, the injector can have an internal orifice sized for a particular fuel. The nozzle **801** is directed towards the electrode **808** to ignite the fuel and towards the thermocouple **182** such that a stable flame **800A** exiting the nozzle **801** will heat the thermocouple **182**.

11

A gas or a liquid can flow from the line **143** through the injector **811** to the outlet **803** and toward the thermocouple **182**. The fluid flows near the air inlet **821** drawing in air for mixing with the fluid. In some embodiments, a user can activate the electrode by depressing the igniter switch **186** (see FIGS. 2 and 4). The electrode can comprise any suitable device for creating a spark to ignite a combustible fuel. In some embodiments, the electrode is a piezoelectric igniter.

With reference now to FIGS. 7-8, a dual fuel pilot assembly **180'** will be discussed. As previously mentioned, the pilot assembly **180'** can also be an oxygen depletion sensor. The pilot assembly **180'** can function in a manner substantially similar to the pilot assembly **180**. The primary difference being that the dual fuel pilot assembly **180'** has a second nozzle **802**. The first nozzle **801** can be configured for use with a first fuel, such as natural gas, and the second nozzle **802** can be configured for use with a second fuel, such as liquid propane. As shown, the pilot assembly **180'** also includes a second electrode **809**. It will be understood that some embodiments may only have a single electrode.

Similar to the first nozzle, the second nozzle can include an injector **812**, an air inlet **822**, and an outlet **804**. In some embodiments, the first nozzle **801** and the second nozzle **802** are directed toward the thermocouple such that a stable flame exiting either of the nozzles **801**, **802** will heat the thermocouple **182**. In certain embodiments, the first nozzle **801** and the second nozzle **802** are directed to different sides of the thermocouple **182**. In some embodiments, the first nozzle **801** and the second nozzle **802** are directed to opposite sides of the thermocouple **182**. In some embodiments, the first nozzle **801** is spaced closer to the thermocouple than is the second nozzle **802**.

In some embodiments, the first nozzle **801** comprises a first air inlet **821** at a base thereof and the second nozzle **802** comprises a second air inlet **822** at a base thereof. In various embodiments, the first air inlet **821** is larger or smaller than the second air inlet **822**. In many embodiments, the first and second injectors **811**, **812** are also located at a base of the nozzles **801**, **802**. In certain embodiments, a gas or a liquid flows from the first line **143** through the first injector **811**, through the first nozzle **801**, and toward the thermocouple **182**. In other embodiments, a gas or a liquid flows from the second line **144** through the second injector **812**, through the second nozzle **802**, and toward the thermocouple **182**. In either case, the fluid flows near the first or second air inlets **821**, **822**, thus drawing in air for mixing with the fluid. In certain embodiments, the first injector **811** introduces a fluid into the first nozzle **801** at a first flow rate, and the second injector **812** introduces a fluid into the second nozzle **802** at a second flow rate. In various embodiments, the first flow rate is greater than or less than the second flow rate.

In some embodiments, the first electrode **808** is positioned at an approximately equal distance from an output end of the first nozzle **801** and an output end of the second nozzle **802**. In some embodiments, a single electrode is used to ignite fuel exiting either the first nozzle **801** or the second nozzle **802**. In other embodiments, a first electrode **808** is positioned closer to the first nozzle **801** than to the second nozzle **802** and the second electrode **809** is positioned nearer to the second nozzle **802** than to the first nozzle **801**.

With reference back to any of FIGS. 5-8, certain embodiments of an electrical control system will be described. As shown in FIGS. 5-8 the thermocouples are electrically connected. Wires **813** and **815** are connected to the first thermocouple **182** and wires **817** and **819** are connected to the second thermocouple. The wires **813** and **817** represent the positive wire connected to the anode of the thermocouple and wires

12

815 and **819** represent the negative wire connected to the cathode of the thermocouple. It can be seen that the second thermocouple is electrically connected to the first thermocouple with opposite wires or in reverse polarity. In other words, the positive wire **813** of the first thermocouple **182** is connected to the negative wire **819** of the second thermocouple **810**. Also the negative wire **815** of the first thermocouple **182** is connected to the positive wire **817** of the second thermocouple **810**. In this way, when the second thermocouple is heated, the current from the first thermocouple can be effectively cancelled out or interrupted by generating a current that flows in the opposite direction. Thus, when the wrong fuel is connected to the heater, or to the wrong connection of the heater, the second thermocouple can detect the excessive temperature and prevent the pilot from proving.

In some embodiments, a pilot can comprise a first thermocouple, a second thermocouple and a nozzle pointing at both thermocouples. The pilot can be configured to direct a flame at only the first thermocouple during normal operation and at both thermocouples when an incorrect fuel is directed through the pilot. In some embodiments, the thermocouples can be electrically connected in reverse polarity. In some embodiments, the pilot can include a second nozzle. The second nozzle can be pointed at only the first thermocouple. In other embodiments, the second nozzle can be pointed at a third thermocouple and the position of the second nozzle and third thermocouple can be independent from the position of the other nozzle and thermocouples.

Looking now to FIG. 9, a schematic diagram is shown of the control valve **130** and the two thermocouples **182** and **810**. The illustrated control valve **130** includes a solenoid that can hold the valve in an open position when an electric current is generated by the first thermocouple **182**.

The first thermocouple can generate an electric potential **E1** and has an internal resistance **r1**. The second thermocouple can generate an electric potential **E2** and has an internal resistance **r2**. The solenoid has an internal resistance **R**. In the illustrated embodiment, when the correct gas is connected to the heating system, only the first thermocouple generates an electric potential **E1**. Thus the current **I** generated equals:

$$I = E1(r1+r2)/(R(r1+r2)+r1r2) \quad (1)$$

And when the wrong gas is connected such that a larger flame **800B** is generated, the current **I** equals:

$$I = ((E1-E2)(r1+r2))/(R(r1+r2)+r1r2) \quad (2)$$

The second thermocouple generates a reverse potential which can cause the potential to drop. This will reduce the current and in some embodiments may effectively cancel out the potential from the first thermocouple. The solenoid needs a rated current to operate, but as the second thermocouple causes a potential drop the solenoid can close. This can prevent a potential safety issue and/or the wrong fuel from flowing through the system.

A thermocouple can include one or more an anode and a cathode. The anode can be the negative terminal on the thermocouple and the cathode can be the positive terminal.

A safety pilot can comprise a first pilot nozzle having an outlet, a first thermocouple and a second thermocouple. The first thermocouple can be positioned a first distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said first thermocouple comprising a first anode and a first cathode and configured to generate voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle. The second thermocouple can be positioned a second distance from said outlet of said first pilot nozzle, said second

13

thermocouple comprising a second anode and a second cathode and configured to generate voltage in response to heat from said first pilot nozzle.

In some embodiments, the thermocouples can be electrically connected in reverse polarity. The second cathode can be in electrical contact with the first anode, and the second anode can be in electrical contact with the first cathode. In some embodiments, a wire leading from the positive terminal of the first thermocouple can be connected to the negative terminal of the second thermocouple. And a wire leading from the negative terminal of the first thermocouple can be connected to the positive terminal of the second thermocouple. A single set of wires may then be used to connect the pilot to a control valve or other electrically responsive valve.

With the thermocouples electrically connected in reverse polarity and when heated by the pilot, two separate currents can be generated which can have the effect of reducing the generated current and/or effectively cancelling each other out as has been explained above. But, when only one thermocouple is heated by the pilot, a usable current can be generated.

In some embodiments, the cathode of the first thermocouple is in electrical contact with the anode of the second thermocouple and the anode of the first thermocouple is in electrical contact with the cathode of the second thermocouple. Thus, when a single thermocouple is heated in response to heat from said the pilot nozzle a first current is generated by the safety pilot and when both the first and the second thermocouples are heated in response to heat from the pilot nozzle, two currents are generated which combine to generate a second current that is less than the first current.

A heating assembly can include a pilot and an electrically responsive valve in electrical communication with a first thermocouple and a second thermocouple of the pilot. The electrically responsive valve can direct fuel flow to a burner through a burner nozzle. (1) The valve can maintain a closed position when an insufficient signal is generated by the first thermocouple and no significant signal is generated by the second thermocouple. (2) The valve can maintain an open position in response to a first signal level from said first thermocouple when no or insufficient signal is generated by said second thermocouple. (3) The valve can close in response to the first signal level from the first thermocouple and a sufficient signal level from the second thermocouple or from simply a sufficient signal level from the second thermocouple. If the electrically responsive valve is a control valve that directs fuel to both the burner and the pilot, it will be understood, that the electrically responsive valve may also direct fuel to the pilot light apart from the actions of the valve controlling the flow of fuel to the burner and the burner nozzle.

Many different types of temperature sensors can be used to detect an excessive temperature condition and/or the connection of the wrong fuel. For example, in many embodiments a thermopile could be used in place of one or more of the thermocouples discussed herein. The signal generated could be sent to the control valve 130, but could also be sent to a printed circuit board. In addition, one or more shut off features can be included in the system instead of, or in addition to the control valve.

FIG. 10 is a schematic representation of another embodiment of heating system. In the illustrated heating system basic components of the heating system are shown including a regulator 120, a control valve 130, a nozzle assembly 160, a burner 190, and a pilot assembly 180. The heating system and components can function in a similar manner to those previously described and can be a single fuel or a dual fuel system.

14

Thus, for example fuel can flow from the regulator 120 to the control valve. The control valve 130 can provide fuel to both the nozzle assembly 160 and to the pilot assembly 180. The nozzle assembly 160 can direct fuel to the burner.

The heating system of FIG. 10 also includes a safety feature to prevent the heating system from starting if the wrong fuel is connected to the heating system under certain circumstances. In some embodiments, a pressure sensor 60 can be used to detect an incorrect fluid pressure entering the system. The incorrect fluid pressure can be indicative of a wrong type of fuel connected to the heating system. In some embodiments, a signal from the pressure switch 60 can be sent to the control valve 130, or the signal from the thermocouple 182 can be interrupted, to thereby close the control valve. In some embodiments, this can be done before fuel is permitted to flow to the burner nozzle 160, or before the pilot has been fully proven. For example, the heating assembly can be configured to detect an undesired condition while the pilot is being proven and before the fuel can flow to the burner nozzle 160. This can beneficially prevent a potential safety hazard.

Different fuels are generally run at different pressures. FIG. 11 shows four different fuels: methane, city gas, natural gas and liquid propane; and a typical pressure range of each particular fuel. The typical pressure range can mean the typical pressure range of the fuel as provided by a container, a gas main, a gas pipe, etc. for consumer use, such as the gas provided to an appliance. Thus, natural gas is generally provided to a home gas oven within the range of 4 to 7 inches of water column. The natural gas can be provided to the oven through piping connected to a gas main. As another example, propane may be provided to a barbeque grill from a propane tank with the range of 10 to 14 inches of water column. The delivery pressure of any fuel may be further regulated to provide a more certain pressure range or may be unregulated. For example, the barbeque grill may have a pressure regulator so that the fuel is delivered to the burner within the range of 10 to 12 inches of water column rather than within the range of 10 to 14 inches of water column.

As shown in the chart, city gas can be a combination of one or more different gases. As an example, city gas can be the gas typically provided to houses and apartments in China, and certain other countries. At times, and from certain sources, the combination of gases in city gas can be different at any one given instant as compared to the next.

Because each fuel has a typical range of pressures that it is delivered at, these ranges can advantageously be used in a heating assembly to ensure that the proper gas is connected to the proper inlet. In particular, a pressure sensor can be used to determine the pressure of the gas before, or as it enters the regulator. If the pressure is not within the typical range or is greatly outside of the typical range of the desired fuel, the control valve can be triggered to close, preventing the incorrect fuel from flowing to the burner nozzle 160 and to the burner 190. In some embodiments, the pressure sensor could be set to a threshold pressure level above the typical pressure range, for example, about 0.5, 1, 1.5 or 2 inches of water column above or below the typical pressure range. In a preferred embodiment, the pressure sensor is set at a threshold level above the typical pressure range.

One embodiment of such a system is represented in FIG. 10. A pressure switch 60 can be fluidly connected to an inlet on or in fluid communication with the pressure regulator 120. The pressure switch 60 can be electrically connected to one or more of the control valve 130, the pilot assembly 180, and the igniter. As shown, the pressure switch 60 is electrically connected to both the control valve 130 and the pilot assembly 180. The pressure switch 60 can be a normally closed switch

15

and can be electrically positioned between the thermocouple **182** and the control valve **180**. Thus, if the pressure switch is opened the circuit between the thermocouple and the control valve will be opened and current from the thermocouple will be prevented from reaching the control valve as the circuit will be an open circuit. Other configurations of the system can also be used.

In another embodiment as shown in FIG. **10A**, the pressure switch **60** can be electrically connected to the igniter **808**. The pressure switch **60** can be a normally closed switch and can be electrically positioned between the switch **186** for the igniter and the igniter **808** itself, such as a piezoelectric igniter. Thus, if the pressure switch is opened the circuit between the igniter switch and the igniter will be opened and current from the igniter switch will be prevented from reaching the igniter as the circuit will be an open circuit. Thus, if the pressure is too high, which may indicate the wrong fuel is connected to the heater, the pilot assembly **180** cannot be ignited with the igniter **808**.

In some embodiment, two pressure switches can be used per inlet. One pressure switch can be set at a low level below the typical pressure range for the desired fuel and the other can be set at a high level above the typical pressure range for the desired fuel. The pressure regulator can be set based on the desired fuel. Thus, if the heating assembly is a dual fuel heating assembly, the heating assembly may have two inlets and four pressure switches, two on each inlet. Similarly, if the heating assembly is a single fuel heating assembly, the heating assembly may have one inlet and one or two pressure switches. In another embodiment, the heating assembly can be a dual fuel heating assembly with a single inlet and it may include one or more pressure switches.

In another embodiment, a dual fuel heating assembly can have two inlets and only one pressure switch. The pressure switch can be connected to the inlet for the lower pressure fuel and can be set at a level above the typical pressure range for that fuel. In this way, the heating assembly can prevent the higher pressure fuel from being connected to the inlet for the lower pressure fuel. As an example, the pressure switch **60** can be used with a natural gas inlet and set to 7.5 inches of water column. The second inlet can be used with liquid propane which is delivered at a higher pressure than natural gas. Propane would also produce a higher flame if introduced through into the system that has been set for natural gas. Thus, the pressure switch can beneficially prevent a safety hazard from occurring.

FIG. **12** shows a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of a pressure switch **60**. The pressure switch **60** has a housing **62** having an inlet **68** to receive fluid as indicated by the arrow and to be able to respond to certain pressures. As shown, the pressure switch **60** is a normally closed pressure switch. The pressure switch **60** can be set to open when a greater than desired pressure encounters a valve member **58**, such as the illustrated diaphragm **58**. A spring **64** and screw **66** can be used to set and adjust the pressure required to move the diaphragm **58**. A cap **72** can cover the screw **66**. In addition, a contact member **56** can move with the diaphragm. The contact member **56** can contact two electrical connection members **52**, **54** which can be electrically connected to a printed circuit board, the igniter **808**, igniter switch **186**, the control valve **130** and/or the thermocouple **182**, among other features.

As has been discussed previously, under normal operation a flame at the pilot **180** heats the thermocouple **182** to generate a current to maintain the control valve in an open position. The pressure switch **60** can be set to open this circuit and prevent the current from reaching the control valve when the

16

switch **60** has been advanced, if it is a normally closed pressure switch. In another embodiment, the pressure switch **60** can be normally open switch so that the switch will only be closed when a minimum pressure is present at the inlet. The system can operate in a similar manner with an igniter, a printed circuit board, or with other features of the heater assembly.

The pressure switch **60** positioned at the inlet can allow the system to provide a safety check before the pilot has been proven and before fuel begins to follow to the burner nozzle **160** and the burner **190**. As the pressure switch can respond immediately based on the delivery pressure of the fuel.

In some embodiments, a pressure switch is configured such that if a fuel is connected to the first gas hook-up that has a delivery pressure either above or below a predetermined threshold pressure, the fuel will act on the pressure switch to move a movable contact member from one of a first or second position to the other position. This will open or close a circuit as the case may be, such that the pilot light cannot be proven to thereby prevent fuel from flowing to the burner.

A pilot light may comprise a thermocouple electrically coupled to one of a first and a second electrical contact of the pressure switch and to the control valve. The heater assembly can be configured so that the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position when the delivery pressure is above the predetermined threshold pressure to create an open circuit between the thermocouple and the control valve such that the control valve cannot flow fuel to the burner.

In some embodiments, an igniter may be electrically coupled to one of the first and second electrical contacts. The heater assembly can be configured so that the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position when the delivery pressure is above the predetermined threshold pressure to create an open circuit between the igniter and one of the first and second electrical contacts such that the fuel cannot be ignited.

In some embodiments, a pressure switch can communicate with a fuel hook-up. When the fuel has a pressure below a threshold pressure, the pressure switch can permit a temperature sensor to electrically connect with a control valve. When the fuel is above the threshold pressure, the pressure switch can prevent the temperature sensor from electrically connecting with the control valve.

A pressure switch can comprise a housing having an inlet and defining an internal chamber. The pressure switch can also include a spring, a diaphragm, first and second electrical contacts, and a movable contact member. The diaphragm can be connected to the spring and positioned within the internal chamber such that fluid entering the inlet acts on the diaphragm. The movable contact member can be connected to the diaphragm such that movement of the diaphragm can cause the movable contact member to movably engage and disengage the first and second electrical contacts, the diaphragm and spring configured to the movable contact member between engaged and disengaged positions at a set fluid pressure. In some embodiments, the movable contact member is biased to the engaged position.

Some embodiments of heater assembly can comprise a thermocouple and a pressure switch. The pressure switch can comprise a valve member movable at a predetermined threshold pressure, first and second electrical contacts, and a movable contact member. The movable contact member can be mechanically connected to the valve member and movable therewith. The movable contact member can be configured for electrical connection to the first and second electrical contacts when in a first engaged position and have a second

17

disengaged position configured to create an open circuit. The thermocouple can be electrically coupled to one of the first and second electrical contacts, wherein the heater assembly is configured so that the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position at a set fluid pressure of fuel in fluid communication with the valve member to create an open circuit with the thermocouple.

Turning now to FIG. 13, a heating unit 70 including a pressure switch 60 is shown. The heating unit 70 combines certain features of a pressure regulator 120 and a fluid flow controller 140 for use with a dual fuel heating assembly. The heating unit 70 is functionally similar to the heating units described in U.S. provisional application No. 61/748,071 filed Dec. 31, 2012, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. For example, in many aspects, the heating unit 70 is similar to that described with reference to FIGS. 22-28 in U.S. provisional application No. 61/748,071.

The heating unit 70 is shown with a pressure switch 60 in fluid communication with one of the inputs 15 of the heating unit 70. The pressure switch 60 can function in a manner as described above.

FIG. 14 shows a heater including the heating unit of FIG. 13 having the pressure switch 60. FIG. 15 shows a schematic diagram of the function of the heater of FIG. 14. FIG. 16 shows a schematic diagram of the function of another embodiment of heater that is similar to those described in U.S. provisional application No. 61/748,071 filed Dec. 31, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein.

In some embodiments, the heating unit 70 can be a fuel selector valve. The fuel selector valve 70 can receive a first fuel or a second fuel. In some embodiments, the first fuel may be liquid propane gas (LP). In some embodiments, the second fuel may be natural gas (NG). The fuel selector valve 70 includes a fuel source connection 12 and a fuel source connection 15. The fuel selector valve 70 can receive LP at fuel source connection 12. The fuel selector valve 70 can receive NG at fuel source connection 15.

In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve 70 can direct fuel to a control valve 130. The control valve can include at least one of a manual valve, a thermostat valve, an AC solenoid, a DC solenoid and a flame adjustment motor. The control valve 130 can direct fuel back to the fuel selector valve 70 and/or to one or more nozzle assemblies 160. In some embodiments the one or more nozzle assemblies 160 can be part of the fuel selector valve 70. The nozzle assembly 160 can be similar the various embodiments that described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/310,664 filed Dec. 2, 2011 and published as U.S. 2012/0255536, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein and are to be considered a part of the specification. FIGS. 23-24B, 28A-34B, 39A-44B, and their accompanying descriptions are but some examples of nozzle assemblies from U.S. 2012/0255536.

A window or opening 155 can be positioned at the nozzle assembly 160. An opening 155 can be used to introduce air into the flow of fuel prior to combustion. The amount of air that is needed to be introduced depends on the type of fuel used. For example, propane gas needs more air than natural gas to produce a flame of the same size as will be discussed in more detail below. In some embodiments, the heating assembly can be switched between the different fuels without requiring adjustment of a window or opening for creating the air fuel mixture. Some embodiments can also include an air shutter assembly around the opening 155. An air shutter can be used to adjust the size of the window. This may be done to accommodate for differences in fuel quality and/or pressure. In some embodiments, this adjustment can be done once for

18

the system as a whole, but it may not be required to further adjust the air shutter if the heater assembly is switched between different fuels.

The fuel selector valve 70 can also direct fuel to an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) 180. In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve 70 can be coupled with ODS lines 143 and 144. As shown, the ODS 180 has a thermocouple 182 coupled to the control valve 130, and an igniter line 184 coupled with an igniter, such as an electrode. In some embodiments, the ODS 180 can be mounted to the main burner 190.

Referring now to FIGS. 17-17A, another embodiment of a fuel selector valve 70 will be described. The illustrated fuel selector valve is similar to that shown in FIGS. 13-14. The fuel selector valve of FIGS. 13-14 is also shown with a pressure sensitive switch and can also include one addition input and output for receiving fuel from the control valve and for directing fuel to a nozzle 160.

The fuel selector valve 70 as illustrated in FIGS. 17-17A includes two pressure regulators 16, one for each different fuel type for a dual fuel heater. Each of the pressure regulators can have a spring loaded valve connected to a diaphragm. The fluid pressure acting on the diaphragm can move the valve allowing more or less fluid to flow through the pressure regulator depending on the orientation of the valve with respect to a valve seat which are generally positioned within the flow passage through the pressure regulator.

Among other features, the heating assembly can be used to select between two different fuels and to set certain parameters, such as one or more flow paths, and/or a setting on one or more pressure regulators based on the desired and selected fuel. The heating assembly 100 can have a first mode configured to direct a flow of a first fuel (such as LP) in a first path through the heating assembly 100 and a second mode configured to direct a flow of a second fuel (such as NG) in a second path through the heating assembly.

The fuel selector valve 70 can be used to select between two different fuels and to set certain parameters, such as one or more flow paths, and/or a setting on one or more pressure regulators based on the desired and selected fuel. The fuel selector valve 70 can have a first mode configured to direct a flow of a first fuel (such as LPG) on a first path through the fuel selector valve 70 and a second mode configured to direct a flow of a second fuel (such as NG) on a second path through the fuel selector valve 70. The fuel selector valve 70 can also include one or more actuation members. In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve 70 can be configured such that inlets of the valve are only open when they are connected to a source of fuel, as described in more detail below.

FIG. 17 illustrates an external view of a fuel selector valve 70 that can have a first inlet 12 and a second inlet 15. Both inlets can have an actuation member with an end that can at least partially enter the inlet and close or substantially close the inlet. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 18, the first inlet 12 can have a first actuation member 22 with an end that blocks the inlet. Similarly, the second inlet 15 can have a second actuation member 24 with an end that blocks the inlet.

As described with respect to various embodiments above, the actuation members can have sealing sections 34, 36 that can seat against respective ledges to close or substantially close their respective inlets 12, 14. Thus, the first actuation member 22 can have a first position in which the sealing section 34 of the first actuation member seats against the first ledge. Similarly, the second actuation member 24 can have a first position in which the sealing section 36 of the second actuation member seats against the second ledge. Each actua-

19

tion member preferably has a biasing member, such as a spring **32** that biases the actuation member toward the first position.

As described in various embodiments above, when a fitting for a source of fuel connects to one of the inlets, it can move the actuation member into a second position that allows fluid to flow through the inlet. FIG. **20** illustrates a fitting **30** of a source of fuel connected to the first inlet **12**. Each of the inlets is shown fluidly connected to a pressure regulator **16** and to the outlet **18**.

As with some pressure regulators described above, the pressure settings of each pressure regulator **16** can be independently adjusted by tensioning of a screw or other device that allows for flow control of the fuel at a predetermined pressure or pressure range (which can correspond to a height of a spring) and selectively maintains an orifice open so that the fuel can flow through a spring-loaded valve or valve assembly of the pressure regulator. If the pressure exceeds a threshold pressure, a plunger seat can be pushed towards a seal ring to seal off the orifice, thereby closing the pressure regulator. In some embodiments, a fuel selector valve **70** can include two inlets with respective inlet valves as well as dedicated pressure regulators that can direct fluid flow to an outlet. Other embodiments may have additional features.

The fuel selector valve can provide additional control of a fluid flow through an additional valve system. The fuel selector valve can both direct fluid to the control valve **130** and receive a flow of fluid from the control valve. As shown, the control valve **130** directs the fluid flow for the oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) to the fuel selector valve. It will be understood that other embodiments can receive both the ODS fluid flow, as well as the nozzle fluid flow, or just the fluid flow for the nozzle. In addition, the fuel selector valve can direct fluid flow to other components in addition to and/or instead of the control valve **130**.

As best seen in FIG. **21**, the actuators **22**, **24** can each be operatively coupled to a valve member **112**, **114** that can open the flow path to either the second outlet **96** or the third outlet **98**. Thus, fluid received at the third inlet **94** can be discharged to either the second outlet **96** or the third outlet **98**. In this way, the fuel selector valve can direct fuel to desired location, such as a burner nozzle or ODS nozzle specific for a particular type of fuel.

The actuation members **22**, **24** are shown as have three separate movable members. For example, actuation member **22** has a first valve **26**, a moveable member **102** and a second valve **112**. This second valve **112** of actuation member **22** is also the third valve of the system. Actuation member **24** is shown with a first valve **28**, a moveable member **104** and a second valve **114**. In the overall system, these valves are also called the second valve **28** and the fourth valve **112**. One benefit of having two or more independently movable members is that having two or more separate members can allow each member to properly seat to the respective valve to prevent leakage; though it will be understood that one, two, or more members could be used. It can also be seen that a number of springs **32** and O-rings, **106** can be used to bias the members to their initial positions and to prevent leakage.

In some embodiments, a fuel selector valve **70** similar to that described with respect to FIGS. **17-21** and described further below with respect to FIGS. **22-24B** can have a single pressure regulator, or no pressure regulators. In addition, in some embodiments, the fuel selector valve **70** can have separate outlets fluidly connected to each inlet and/or fuel hook-up.

Each of the fuel selector valves described herein can be used with a pilot light or oxygen depletion sensor, a nozzle,

20

and a burner to form part of a heater or other gas appliance. The different configurations of valves and controls such as by the actuation members can allow the fuel selector valve to be used in different types of systems. For example, the fuel selector valve can be used in a dual fuel heater system with separate ODS and nozzles for each fuel. The fuel selector valve can also be used with nozzles and ODS that are pressure sensitive so that can be only one nozzle, one ODS, or one line leading to the various components from the fuel selector valve.

According to some embodiments, a heater assembly can be used with one of a first fuel type or a second fuel type different than the first. The heater assembly can include a pressure regulator having a first position and a second position and a housing having first and second fuel hook-ups. The first fuel hook-up can be used for connecting the first fuel type to the heater assembly and the second hook-up can be used for connecting the second fuel type to the heater assembly. An actuation member can be positioned such that one end is located within the second fuel hook-up. The actuation member can have a first position and a second position, such that connecting a fuel source to the heater assembly at the second fuel hook-up moves the actuation member from the first position to the second position. This can cause the pressure regulator to move from its first position to its second position. As has been discussed, the pressure regulator in the second position can be configured to regulate a fuel flow of the second fuel type within a predetermined range.

The heater assembly may also include one or more of a second pressure regulator, a second actuation member, and one or more arms extending between the respective actuation member and pressure regulator. The one or more arms can be configured to establish a compressible height of a pressure regulator spring within the pressure regulator.

A heater assembly can be used with one of a first fuel type or a second fuel type different than the first. The heater assembly can include at least one pressure regulator and a housing. The housing can comprise a first fuel hook-up for connecting the first fuel type to the heater assembly, and a second fuel hook-up for connecting the second fuel type to the heater assembly. The housing can also include a first inlet, a first outlet, a second outlet configured with an open position and a closed position, and a first valve configured to open and close the second outlet. A first actuation member having an end located within the second fuel hook-up and having a first position and a second position can be configured such that connecting a fuel source to the heater assembly at the second fuel hook-up moves the actuation member from the first position to the second position which causes the first valve to open the second outlet, the second outlet being in fluid communication with the second fuel hook-up.

The first actuation member can be further configured such that connecting the fuel source to the heater assembly at the second fuel hook-up moves the first actuation member from the first position to the second position which causes the at least one pressure regulator to move from a first position to a second position, wherein the at least one pressure regulator in the second position is configured to regulate a fuel flow of the second fuel type within a predetermined range.

The at least one pressure regulator can comprises first and second pressure regulators, the first pressure regulator being in fluid communication with the first fuel hook-up and the second pressure regulator being in fluid communication with the second fuel hook-up.

Similarly, the first valve can be configured to open and close both the first and second outlets or there can be a second valve configured to open and close the first outlet. The hous-

21

ing may include addition, inlets, outlets and valves. Also a second actuation member may be used and positioned within the first fuel hook-up.

In certain embodiments, the heater assembly is configured to accept and channel liquid propane when in a first operational configuration and to accept and channel natural gas when in a second operational configuration. In other embodiments, the heater assembly is configured to channel one or more different fuels when in either the first or second operational configuration.

The fuel selector valves **70** of FIGS. **17-21** can be used in the system shown in FIG. **16**. Returning to FIGS. **13** and **14**, a fuel selector valve **70** (also shown in FIGS. **22-24B**) can be used in the system shown in FIG. **15**. It can be seen that one of the main differences between FIG. **15** and FIG. **16** is how the fuel travels from the control valve to the burner. In FIG. **16**, fuel can travel from the control valve to a pressure sensitive nozzle which can control how the fuel is injected to the burner, i.e. the pathway through the nozzle to the burner.

In FIG. **15**, the control valve directs some of the flow directly to the burner through a nozzle and some of the flow is returned to the fuel selector valve **70**. This second flow may be directed to the burner by a second nozzle dependent upon which fuel inlet is connected to a fuel source. In this way, some of the flow to the burner travels the second path when the natural gas connection is made. But, the direct flow to the burner is independent of whether liquid propane or natural gas is connected. From this it will be understood that the fuel selector valve of FIGS. **13-14** includes one additional input and an output for receiving fuel from the control valve and for directing fuel to a nozzle, as well as an internal valve to open and close this passageway.

FIG. **22** illustrates an external perspective view of a fuel selector valve **70** that can have an additional input and output and can be used in the system shown in FIG. **15**, although it can also be used in the system shown in FIG. **16**. Like valves described above, valve **70** of FIG. **22** can have a first fuel source connection or inlet **12** and a second fuel source connection or inlet **15**. In some embodiments, the first inlet **12** can be configured to connect to a fitting for a first fuel (such as LP), and the second inlet **15** can be configured to connect to a fitting for a second fuel (such as NG). Both inlets can have an actuation member with an end that can at least partially enter the inlet and close or substantially close the inlet. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **18**, the first inlet **12** can have a first actuation member **22** with an end that blocks the inlet. Similarly, the second inlet **15** can have a second actuation member **24** with an end that blocks the inlet. FIG. **18** is a cross-section of the valve illustrated in FIG. **17**, but is similar in all relevant respects to the valve of FIG. **22** if considered to be viewed from the line D-D of FIG. **17A**.

As described with respect to various embodiments above, the actuation members can have sealing sections **34**, **36** that can seat against respective ledges to close or substantially close their respective inlets **12**, **14**. Thus, the first actuation member **22** can have a first position in which the sealing section **34** of the first actuation member seats against the first ledge. Similarly, the second actuation member **24** can have a first position in which the sealing section **36** of the second actuation member seats against the second ledge. Each actuation member preferably has a biasing member, such as a spring **32** that biases the actuation member toward the first position.

As described in various embodiments above, when a fitting for a source of fuel connects to one of the inlets, it can move the actuation member into a second position that allows fluid to flow through the inlet. FIG. **20** illustrates a fitting **30** of a

22

source of fuel connected to the first inlet **12**. Each of the inlets is shown fluidly connected to a pressure regulator **16** and to the outlet **18**. FIG. **20** shows the same view as FIG. **18**.

As with some pressure regulators described above, the pressure settings of each pressure regulator **16** can be independently adjusted by tensioning of a screw or other device that allows for flow control of the fuel at a predetermined pressure or pressure range (which can correspond to a height of a spring) and selectively maintains an orifice open so that the fuel can flow through a spring-loaded valve or valve assembly of the pressure regulator. If the pressure exceeds a threshold pressure, a plunger seat can be pushed towards a seal ring to seal off the orifice, thereby closing the pressure regulator. In some embodiments, a fuel selector valve **70** can include two inlets with respective inlet valves as well as dedicated pressure regulators that can direct fluid flow to an outlet. Other embodiments may have additional features.

The fuel selector valve can provide additional control of a fluid flow through additional valve systems, as described further below. The fuel selector valve can both direct fluid to the control valve **130** and receive a flow or flows of fluid from the control valve. In some embodiments the control valve **130** directs the fluid flow for the oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) to the fuel selector valve. In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve can receive both the ODS fluid flow as well as a portion of the nozzle fluid flow. In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve can receive just the fluid flow for the nozzle from the control valve. In addition, the fuel selector valve can direct fluid flow to other components in addition to and/or instead of the control valve **130**. For example, in some embodiments the fuel selector valve can selectively direct fluid flow to a nozzle. In some embodiments, the fuel selector valve can direct fluid flow toward an ODS.

With reference to FIG. **22**, the fuel selector valve can have a variety of connections allowing for use in the system shown in FIG. **15** and in various other embodiments of systems described herein. In addition to the first inlet **12** and second inlet **15**, the fuel selector valve can have a third inlet **94** and a fourth inlet **95**, each of which can fluidly connect to the control valve. The fuel selector valve can also have a first outlet **18**, which can fluidly connect to the pressure regulators **16** and the control valve, a second outlet **96** and third outlet **98**, which can fluidly connect to an ODS, and a fourth outlet **97**, which can fluidly connect to a nozzle.

As best seen in FIGS. **24A** and **24B**, which illustrate the cross sections of the fuel selector valve **70** identified in FIG. **23**, the actuators **22**, **24** can each be operatively coupled to a valve member **112**, **114** that can adjust flow paths through the selector valve. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **24A**, the valve member **112** can selectively allow a flow of fluid that enters through the fourth inlet **95** from the control valve to pass through the fourth outlet **97** to the nozzle. In some embodiments, the valve member **112** can have a first position configured to allow a second fuel (such as NG) to exit the fourth outlet **97** and a second position configured to block or substantially block a first fuel (such as LP) from exiting the fourth outlet **97**. The valve member **112** can be biased toward the first position. In some embodiments, connecting a fitting to the first inlet **12** can move the valve member **112** to the second position. Because the second inlet **15** can be configured to receive fittings for the second fuel (such as NG), when the second inlet receives the second fuel the valve member **112** can be in the first position.

Similarly, as illustrated in FIG. **21B**, the valve member **114** can direct a fluid flow path from the control valve through the third inlet **94** to either the second outlet **96** or the third outlet **98**. In some embodiments, the second outlet can fluidly con-

nect to an ODS pilot for the first fuel (such as LP). In some embodiments, the third outlet can fluidly connect to an ODS pilot for the second fuel (such as NG). In some embodiments, the valve member **114** can be configured to be biased toward a first position that allows fluid that enters through the third inlet **94** to flow through the second outlet **96**, and that blocks or substantially blocks fluid flow through the third outlet **98**. In some embodiments, connecting a fitting to the second inlet **15** can move the valve member to a second position that allows fluid that enters through the third inlet **94** to flow through the third outlet **98**, and that blocks or substantially blocks fluid flow through the second outlet **96**. Because the first inlet can be configured to receive fittings for the first fuel (such as LP), when the first inlet receives the first fuel the valve member **114** can be in the first position.

As above, in some embodiments, an actuation member **22**, **24** may have multiple separate movable members. For example, actuation member **22** is shown with three separate movable members: a first valve **26**, a moveable member **102**, and a second valve **112**. This second valve **112** of actuation member **22** is also the third valve of the system. As a further example, actuation member **24** is shown with two separate movable members: a first valve **28** and a second valve **114**. In the overall system, these valves are also called the second valve **28** and the fourth valve **114**. One benefit of having two or more independently movable members is that having two or more separate members can allow each member to properly seat to the respective valve to prevent leakage; though it will be understood that one, two, or more members could be used for either the first actuation member or the second actuation member. It can also be seen that a number of springs **32** and O-rings **106** can be used to bias the members to their initial positions and to prevent leakage. Additionally, different sealing systems can be used. For example, the fourth valve **114** can move relative to and seal against O-rings **106** to close or substantially close the valve. The third valve **112** can have a sealing section **116** that seats against a respective ledge to close or substantially close the valve.

Returning now to FIG. **14**, in certain embodiments, a control valve **130** and/or a heating unit **70**, such as a fuel selector valve, can be positioned to be in fluid communication with the burner **190**. The heating unit **70** and/or control valve **130** can be coupled to the burner **190** in any suitable manner. As has been discussed, various pipes or lines (including **124**, **124A**, **124B**) can be used to direct fuel flow to a nozzle **160** which is then directed to the burner **190**. A burner delivery line **148** can be used to direct fuel flow from the nozzle(s) to the burner **190**. The burner delivery line **148** can be part of, or separate from, the actual burner **190** and may not be used in all embodiments. Thus, it will be understood that features of the burner delivery line can also be features of the burner.

In some embodiments, the burner delivery line **148** defines an opening **145A**, **145B** at a first end thereof through which one or more of the nozzles **160A**, **160B** can extend (FIG. **14A**). In other embodiments, the nozzles are not located within the burner delivery line **148** but are positioned to direct fuel into the burner delivery line **148**. The nozzle(s) can direct fuel to the venturi **146A**, **146B** or the throat of the burner, which as shown is constricted to act like a built-in venturi, and then into the burner itself.

In some embodiments, such as that shown in FIG. **14**, the burner delivery line **148** defines an air intake, aperture, opening, or window **155** through which air can flow to mix with fuel dispensed by the nozzle **160A**. An opening **155** can be used to introduce air into the flow of fuel prior to combustion. The amount of air that is needed to be introduced depends on the type of fuel used. For example, propane gas at typical

pressures needs more air than natural gas to produce a flame of the same size. In some embodiments, the window **155** is adjustably sized. For example, in some embodiments, a cover as part of an air shutter can be positioned over the window **155** to adjust the amount of air that can enter the burner delivery line **148** through the window. The area or volume inside of the burner delivery line **148** at the window **155** defines a mixing chamber where air and fuel can be mixed.

Referring now to FIG. **14A**, a schematic cross-section view of a portion of the heater is shown. As shown, in some embodiments, a burner **190** or burner delivery line **148** can have two separate inlets **145A**, **145B**. The inlets can be separate and can remain divided along a portion of the length of the burner or burner delivery line. For example, the burner delivery line **148** can be divided from the inlets **145A**, **145B** until after the venturi **146A**, **146B**. In some embodiments, the end of the separation may determine the end of the venturi. In some embodiments, the first inlet **145A** can be part of a first conduit, and the second inlet **145B** can be part of a second conduit. The first and second conduits can connect to then form a single conduit, or can both connect to a third conduit. These conduits can all be part of the burner or burner delivery line.

As shown, a window **155** can be positioned between the inlet **145A** and the venturi **146A**. It can also be seen that the other side does not have a window. In some embodiments, the burner delivery line **148** can be divided starting from the inlets **145A**, **145B** until after the window **155**, or until after a set distance from the window. A first fuel that requires more air (compared to a second fuel) can be injected into the burner delivery line **148** through nozzle **160A** to pass by the window. The second fuel, that does not require as much air, can be injected into the burner delivery line **148** through nozzle **160B**. In some embodiments, a fuel that does not require as much air can be injected into the burner through both nozzles **160A**, **160B**. Injecting a fuel into both nozzles will result in a less air rich fuel. It will be understood that the various factors can be considered to obtain the desired air fuel mixture, including, but not limited to, nozzle orifice size, window size, position of the nozzle with respect to the window, position of the second nozzle with respect to the window, etc.

As shown, the burner delivery line can be used in a dual fuel heater without requiring an air shutter, or adjustments to the window size. This can reduce costs and also prevent user error associated with adjusting an air shutter.

As fuel passes the window **155** it will pull air into the mixing chamber of the burner delivery line **148**. As the nozzle **160B** does not have a window positioned close to the nozzle, an air/fuel mixture will still be created at injection, but it will generally not be as air rich as it would if it were positioned next to a window.

In some embodiments, the first inlet **145A** can be positioned a set distance away from the second inlet **145B**. For example, the set distance can be equal to or greater than the size of the window **155**. In some embodiments, the distance from the end of the window to the venturi can be substantially the same as the distance from the second inlet to the venturi.

It will be understood that though the inlets are shown positioned next to each other, in some embodiments the two inlets can be more clearly separated, or even completely separated, such as having one inlet at one end of the burner, and the other at an opposite end or different part of the burner. In addition, though the illustration shows one inlet with a window **155** and one without, in other embodiments, both inlets can have a window, but one window can be substantially larger than the other, such as 2, 3, 4, or 5 times the size of the first smaller window. It will also be understood that the

25

window can be any of a number of different sizes, shapes, and configurations, and may be one or more windows.

Referring to FIGS. 14 and 15, operation of the illustrated heater will be described according to certain embodiments. A user can connect one of two fuels, such as either natural gas or propane to the heater. Each fuel hook-up can be set for a certain fuel type. Connecting the fuel source to the fuel selector valve 70 can automatically set the fuel selector valve to a position configured for the particular gas as has been described. If propane is connected to the natural gas inlet, the pressure sensor 60 can detect this pressure difference and prevent the control valve from opening thereby preventing fluid flow to the burner.

With the proper gas is connected and once the pilot has been proven, the system can be changed to a heating configuration where fuel can flow from the control valve to the burner. The control valve 130 can then control the flow to the pilot (or ODS) 180 and to the burner 190.

In the illustrated embodiment, the control valve 130 returns the pilot fuel flow to the fuel selector valve 70. The setting of the fuel selector valve 70, based on which fuel hook-up is used, then determines which pilot nozzle receives the pilot fuel flow.

In the illustrated embodiment, the control valve 130 returns some of the burner fuel flow to the fuel selector valve 70 and some is directed at the burner nozzle 160A. The setting of the fuel selector valve 70, based on which fuel hook-up is used, then determines whether burner nozzle 160B also receives the burner fuel flow. If the natural gas fuel hook-up is used and natural gas is flowing in the heater, an internal valve in the fuel selector valve 70 will be open to allow fuel flow to burner nozzle 160B. If the propane fuel hook-up is used and propane gas is flowing in the heater, an internal valve in the fuel selector valve 70 will be closed to prevent fuel flow to burner nozzle 160B. But, with propane, as with natural gas, fuel can flow from the control valve 130 to the burner nozzle 160A.

It can be seen that one of the main differences between FIG. 15 and FIG. 16 is how the fuel travels from the control valve to the burner. In FIG. 16, fuel can travel from the control valve to a pressure sensitive nozzle which can control how the fuel is injected to the burner, i.e. the pathway through the nozzle to the burner.

In FIG. 15, the control valve directs some of the flow directly to the burner through a nozzle and some of the flow is returned to the fuel selector valve 70. This second flow may be directed to the burner by a second nozzle dependent upon which fuel inlet is connected to a fuel source. In this way, some of the flow to the burner travels the second path when the natural gas connection is made. But, the direct flow to the burner is independent of whether liquid propane or natural gas is connected. From this it will be understood that the fuel selector valve of FIGS. 13-14 includes one addition input and an output for receiving fuel from the control valve and for directing fuel to a nozzle, as well as an internal valve to open and close this passageway.

Turning now to FIGS. 25A-25B, another embodiment of a pressure switch 60 is illustrated. The pressure switch 60 has a housing 62 having an inlet 68 to receive fluid to be able to respond to certain pressures. As shown, the pressure switch 60 is a normally open pressure switch. The pressure switch 60 can be set to close when a greater than desired pressure encounters a valve member 58, such as the illustrated diaphragm 58. A spring 64 can be used to determine the pressure required to move the diaphragm 58.

As can be seen, in this pressure switch, rather than control an electrical connection, the valve member can control a flow path through the pressure switch between an inlet 61 and an

26

outlet 63. A valve stem 65 on the valve member 58 can engage a valve seat 67 on the housing 62 to close the flow path when the pressure of the fluid entering inlet 68 is at or above a set threshold pressure. The inlet 68 may also be considered a pressure chamber. Other types and styles of valve members can also be used. For example, the diaphragm 58 alone can be used to close the flow path. In addition, in other embodiments, the pressure switch 60 can be a normally closed pressure switch that is opened when the pressure in the inlet or pressure chamber 68 is at or above a set threshold pressure.

The pressure switch 60 with flow path control can be used to control one or more flows of fuel within a heating assembly. For example, the pressure switch 60 can be in fluid communication with an inlet on the heating assembly such that the pressure at the pressure chamber 68 is the delivery pressure of the fluid. As different types of fuels are generally provided within distinguishable pressure ranges, as has been discussed, the pressure switch can be used to distinguish between different types of fuel. The pressure switch may be used as a safety feature, similar to other pressure switches and devices discussed herein, but may also serve other or additional purposes, such as determining one or more flow paths through the heating assembly.

FIGS. 26-29B show an example of a heater 110 having a pressure switch 60 with flow path control. The heater 110 of FIG. 26 is very similar to the heater shown in FIG. 14. Looking now at FIG. 27A, the heater 110 is shown in a partially disassembled view. The illustrated heating source 70 of the heater 110 is the same as that shown and described with respect to FIGS. 22-24B and FIG. 14. Thus, the primary difference between the heater 110 and the heater shown in FIG. 14 is the use of a different pressure switch. In the embodiment of FIGS. 26-29B, the pressure switch 60 provides flow path control to the pilot or ODS 180 based on the delivery pressure of the fuel at one of the inlets.

FIGS. 27A, 28A and 29A are partially disassembled views of the heater of FIG. 26 illustrating different flow configurations and FIGS. 27B, 28B and 29B respectively show a schematic diagram of the flow configuration of one of FIGS. 27A, 28A and 29A. FIGS. 27A-B show the flow paths through the heater when a natural gas (NG) supply is connected to the natural gas input 15. It will be understood that the illustrated NG and liquid propane (LPG) inputs and supplies are simply examples of fuels that can be used with the heater.

As shown, when NG is connected to the NG inlet 15, the pressure chamber 68 of the pressure switch 60 is in communication with the fuel as it is delivered to the heater. Thus, the delivery pressure of the gas determines the position of the internal valve member 58. The valve can be configured such that NG delivered within a standard or typical pressure range does not move the valve member so that the flow path between the inlet 61 and the outlet 63 is open and fuel can flow through the flow path. The NG ODS or pilot line 144 has been divided into two segments 144A and 144B with the pressure switch 60 in-between. In this position, the pressure switch 60 can determine whether NG fuel can flow to the pilot or ODS 180. As will be described in more detail below, when an incorrect fuel is connected to the NG inlet with a higher delivery pressure, the pressure switch can prevent this gas from flowing to the pilot 180. Thus, the pilot cannot be proven and fuel cannot flow to the burner.

Though the schematic diagram has been drawn slightly differently from FIG. 15, the other flow paths through the heater and between the control valve 130, heating source 70, ODS 180, and nozzle(s) 160 are the same as those previously described.

FIGS. 28A-B show an LP fuel source connected to the LP inlet 12. The LP inlet 12 is not in communication with the pressure switch 60, thus, the delivery pressure does not control any of the flow paths through the heater.

FIGS. 29A-B show an LP fuel source connected to the NG inlet 15. As shown, when LP is connected to the NG inlet 15, the pressure chamber 68 of the pressure switch 60 is in communication with the fuel as it is delivered to the heater. Thus, the delivery pressure of the gas determines the position of the internal valve member 58. The valve can be configured such that LP delivered within a standard or typical pressure range moves the valve member so that the flow path between the inlet 61 and the outlet 63 is closed and fuel cannot flow through the flow path. The NG ODS or pilot line 144 has been divided into two segments 144A and 144B with the pressure switch 60 in-between. In this position, the pressure switch 60 can determine whether fuel can flow to the pilot or ODS 180. As LP is the incorrect fuel in this instance, because it is connected to the incorrect NG inlet and it has a higher delivery pressure than NG, the pressure switch can prevent LP from flowing to the pilot 180 in this situation. Thus, the pilot cannot be proven and LP fuel cannot flow to the burner through incorrect flow paths. Thus, a user can be prevented from causing a safety hazard that may result if the wrong fuel where connected to the wrong inlet or fuel hook-up of the heater.

Though the pressure switch 60 is shown configured to control flow through one of the ODS lines, it will be understood that the pressure switch 60 could also be positioned in other locations to control other flows. For example, the pressure switch could be used to control flow to the burner, positioned for example at a point along the NG gas line 124B. In this way, the pressure switch could allow the heater to still be used when LP is connected to the NG inlet, but would only allow flow to the LP burner nozzle.

In another embodiment, the pressure switch 60 can be used on a dual fuel heater with a single inlet, such as with a changeable pressure regulator to a two position pressure regulator. The pressure switch can include a rocker valve, instead of the on/off valve and can be used to determine the flow path to the pilot or ODS. Thus, the pressure switch can have two alternate outlets instead of a single outlet 63. One outlet can direct fuel to a first pilot, first pilot nozzle, or first orifice and the second outlet can direct fuel to a second pilot, second pilot nozzle, or second orifice. For example the first nozzle pilot can be configured for NG and the second for LP.

In addition, the pressure switch 60 with flow control could be used on a single fuel heater, such as an NG heater. The pressure switch may be positioned along a flow path directed towards the pilot, ODS, burner, or control valve, among other features.

Moving now to FIGS. 30-33B an embodiment of a heating source 70 is shown that incorporates a pressure switch 60 with flow control into the housing of the heating source. The heating source can function in a manner similar to those previously described. For example, the heating source of FIGS. 30-33B can be the same as that described with respect to FIGS. 22-24B with the addition of the pressure switch 60. Of course it will be understood that the pressure switch 60 can also be used with and/or integrated into other heating sources as well. In addition, other types of pressure switches may be integrated into the heating source, for example, a pressure switch with electronic control can be integrated into the heating source.

Thus, in some embodiments a fuel source can connect to either inlet 12 or inlet 15. Selecting the inlet can determine which pressure regulator 16 will be used as well as selecting

certain flow paths through the heating source 70. From the pressure regulator, the fuel can exit at outlet 18 to the control valve 130. The control valve 130 can direct a flow of fuel for the pilot or ODS to the inlet 94 and a flow of fuel for the burner to the inlet 95. Depending on whether the inlet 12 or the inlet 15 is selected can determine whether fuel will flow to the burner from outlet 97. Also, depending on whether the inlet 12 or the inlet 15 is selected can determine whether the pilot flow will exit outlet 96 or 98.

If the inlet 15 has been selected, then the delivery pressure of the fuel and the pressure switch 60 can also determine whether fuel can flow to the pilot. Looking now at FIGS. 32-33B, the details of the pressure switch can be seen. In FIG. 32A the inlet 68 can be seen that allows fluid communication between fuel at the inlet 15 and the valve 58 of the pressure switch. If the delivery pressure exceeds a predetermined threshold pressure, the valve 58 can be moved from a first position to a second position. In the illustrated embodiment, this can close the flow path between inlet 61 and outlet 63 as best seen in FIG. 33B. Inlet 61 of the pressure switch 60 can be connected to the inlet 94 of the heating source 70 and outlet 63 of the pressure switch 60 can be connected to the outlet 98 of the heating source 70. A separate valve can be used to determine whether the inlet 94 is open to the outlet 96 or the outlet 98 as has been described with respect to previous embodiments.

According to some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a burner, a pilot light, a gas hook-up, a control valve and a pressure switch. The control valve can be configured to receive a flow of fuel from the gas hook-up and to selectively direct fuel to the pilot light and the burner. The pressure switch can be in fluid communication with the gas hook-up and be movable at a predetermined threshold pressure from a first position to a second position. The pressure switch can be further configured such that if a fuel is connected to the gas hook-up that has a delivery pressure either above or below the predetermined threshold pressure, the fuel will act on the pressure switch to move it from the first position to the second position.

The movement from the first position to the second position results in a change in the heater assembly. This change can be a safety feature, such as to prevent the wrong fuel from flowing through the heater assembly through the wrong flow paths, but may also provide a control mechanism, such as determining a flow path through the heater assembly. In some embodiments, the movement of the pressure switch prevents that the pilot light from being proven to thereby prevent the fuel from flowing to the burner. This may be a result of a change in the electrical system or a change in the flow of fuel through the system.

In some embodiments, the pressure switch can comprise a valve member, first and second electrical contacts, and a movable contact member mechanically connected to the valve member and movable therewith. The movable contact member can be configured for electrical connection to the first and second electrical contacts when in a first engaged position and having a second disengaged position configured to create an open circuit. The electrical contacts can be used with a thermocouple, igniter, printed circuit board, and/or control valve, among other features. For example, in some embodiments, the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position when the delivery pressure is above a predetermined threshold pressure to create an open circuit between the thermocouple and the control valve such that the control valve cannot flow fuel to the burner.

In some embodiments, the pressure switch can be used to control whether an electric signal can flow to the igniter. In still other embodiments, the pressure switch comprises a valve member positioned within a flow channel and movement of the pressure switch either opens or closes the flow channel. The pressure switch can allow or prevent flow to the pilot or to the burner in some embodiments.

According to some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a pilot light, a burner, a first gas hook-up, a control valve configured to receive a flow of fuel from the first gas hook-up and to selectively direct fuel to the pilot light and the burner, and a pressure switch in fluid communication with the first gas hook-up. The pressure switch can comprise a valve member movable at a predetermined threshold pressure, first and second electrical contacts, and a movable contact member mechanically connected to the valve member and movable therewith. The movable contact member can be configured for electrical connection to the first and second electrical contacts when in a first engaged position and have a second disengaged position configured to create an open circuit. The pressure switch can be configured such that if a fuel is connected to the first gas hook-up that has a delivery pressure either above the predetermined threshold pressure in one situation, or below the predetermined threshold pressure in another situation, the fuel will act on the pressure switch to move the movable contact member from one of the first or second positions to the other position such that the pilot light cannot be proven to thereby prevent the fuel from flowing to the burner.

The contact member can contact two electrical connection members which can be electrically connected to a printed circuit board, igniter, igniter switch, control valve and/or thermocouple, among other features.

In some embodiments, a heater assembly can comprise a housing comprising: a first gas hook-up, a first pressure regulator, a first flow path extending between the first gas hook-up and the pressure regulator, a second flow path, and a pressure switch in fluid communication with the first gas hook-up upstream from the first pressure regulator. The pressure switch can be movable from a first position to a second position when a delivery pressure of a fuel at the first gas hook-up is within a predetermined delivery pressure range. The pressure switch can be configured such that if the fuel connected to the first gas hook-up has a delivery pressure within the predetermined delivery pressure range, the fuel will act on the pressure switch to move it from the first position to the second position which movement opens or closes the second flow path through the housing.

Although this invention has been disclosed in the context of certain preferred embodiments and examples, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the present invention extends beyond the specifically disclosed embodiments to other alternative embodiments and/or uses of the invention and obvious modifications and equivalents thereof. In addition, while a number of variations of the invention have been shown and described in detail, other modifications, which are within the scope of this invention, will be readily apparent to those of skill in the art based upon this disclosure. It is also contemplated that various combinations or sub-combinations of the specific features and aspects of the embodiments may be made and still fall within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, it should be understood that various features and aspects of the disclosed embodiments can be combined with or substituted for one another in order to form varying modes of the disclosed invention. Thus, it is intended that the scope of the present invention herein disclosed should not be

limited by the particular disclosed embodiments described above, but should be determined only by a fair reading of the claims that follow.

Similarly, this method of disclosure, is not to be interpreted as reflecting an intention that any claim require more features than are expressly recited in that claim. Rather, as the following claims reflect, inventive aspects lie in a combination of fewer than all features of any single foregoing disclosed embodiment. Thus, the claims following the Detailed Description are hereby expressly incorporated into this Detailed Description, with each claim standing on its own as a separate embodiment.

What is claimed is:

1. A heater assembly for use with one of a first fuel type or a second fuel type different than the first, the heater assembly comprising:

a burner;
a pressure regulator unit configured to regulate either a fuel flow of a first fuel type within a first predetermined range or of a second fuel type within a second predetermined range different from the first, the pressure regulator unit comprising a housing having first and second fuel hook-ups, the first fuel hook-up for connecting the first fuel type to the heater assembly and the second hook-up for connecting the second fuel type to the heater assembly;

a pilot nozzle;

a temperature sensor;

a control valve for controlling the flow of said first type of fuel and the flow of said second type of fuel to said burner; and

a pressure switch communicating with one of said first and second fuel hook-ups, wherein when fuel has a pressure below a threshold said pressure switch permits said temperature sensor to electrically connect with said control valve and when a fuel has above said pressure threshold said pressure switch prevents said temperature sensor from electrically connecting with said control valve;

wherein the pressure switch comprises:

a housing having an inlet and defining an internal chamber;

a spring;

a diaphragm connected to the spring and positioned within the internal chamber such that fluid entering the inlet acts on the diaphragm;

first and second electrical contacts; and

a movable contact member connected to the diaphragm such that movement of the diaphragm causes the movable contact member to movably engage and disengage the first and second electrical contacts, the diaphragm and spring configured to move the movable contact member between engage and disengaged positions at the pressure threshold.

2. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein the pressure regulator unit comprises a first pressure regulator and a second pressure regulator.

3. The heater assembly of claim 1, further comprising a valve positioned at the first fuel hook-up, the valve configured to open when a fuel source is connected to the heater assembly at the first fuel hook-up.

4. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a thermocouple.

5. A heater assembly, comprising:

a burner;

a first fuel hookup;

a pilot nozzle;

a temperature sensor;

31

a control valve for controlling the flow of fuel to said burner; and
 a pressure switch communicating with said first fuel hook-up, wherein when a fuel at the first fuel hookup has a pressure below a threshold said pressure switch permits said temperature sensor to electrically connect with said control valve and when the fuel has a pressure above said pressure threshold said pressure switch prevents said temperature sensor from electrically connecting with said control valve;
 wherein the pressure switch comprises:
 a housing having an inlet and defining an internal chamber;
 a spring;
 a diaphragm connected to the spring and positioned within the internal chamber such that fluid entering the inlet acts on the diaphragm;
 first and second electrical contacts; and
 a movable contact member connected to the diaphragm such that movement of the diaphragm causes the movable contact member to movably engage and disengage the first and second electrical contacts, the diaphragm and spring configured to move the movable contact member between engaged and disengaged positions at the pressure threshold.
 6. The heater assembly of claim 5, wherein the pilot nozzle and temperature sensor comprise a pilot light.
 7. The heater assembly of claim 6, wherein the pilot light comprises an oxygen depletion sensor.
 8. The heater assembly of claim 6, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a thermocouple.
 9. The heater assembly of claim 5, further comprising a pressure regulator in fluid communication with the first fuel hookup.

32

10. The heater assembly of claim 9, further comprising a valve positioned at the first fuel hook-up, the valve configured to open when a fuel source is connected to the heater assembly at the first fuel hook-up.
 11. The heater assembly of claim 5, wherein the movable contact member is biased to the engaged position.
 12. A heater assembly, comprising:
 a burner;
 a control valve for controlling the flow of fuel to said burner;
 a pressure switch comprising:
 a diaphragm movable at a predetermined threshold pressure;
 first and second electrical contacts; and
 a movable contact member mechanically connected to the diaphragm and movable therewith, the movable contact member configured for electrical connection to the first and second electrical contacts when in a first engaged position and having a second disengaged position configured to create an open circuit;
 a thermocouple electrically coupled to one of the first and second electrical contacts and the control valve, wherein the heater assembly is configured so that the movable contact member of the pressure switch is in the second disengaged position at a set fluid pressure of fuel in fluid communication with the diaphragm to create an open circuit with the thermocouple; and
 a pilot nozzle configured to direct heat from combustion of the fuel at the thermocouple.
 13. The heater assembly of claim 12, further comprising a pressure regulator wherein the pressure switch is upstream of the pressure regulator.
 14. The heater assembly of claim 12, wherein the pressure switch is positioned near and in fluid communication with the first fuel hook-up.

* * * * *